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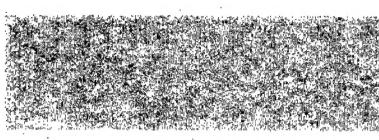
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24 May 1985

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

ISLAMIC TRENDS SEMINAR

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English Apr 82 p 12

[Text] More than 50 Islamic scholars and leading figures in the Islamic movement participated in a three-day seminar held in Bahrain from February 21 to February 24. The seminar was organised by the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS), a regional organisation for education, culture and science. ABEGS comprises Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE and has its headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The seminar discussed 12 papers on "Trends in Contemporary Islamic Thinking," including papers on the nature of Islamic dawa by Prof Khurshi Ahmad (Pakistan), the reformatory and revivalist movement in Najd by Dr Abdulla Muhammad Ajlan (Saudi Arabia), the Ikhawanul Muslimoon by Mohammad Farid Abdul Khaliq (Egypt), Al-Tahir al-Islami by Dr Hamman Said (Jordan), Tablighi Jamaat by Saad al-Hussein (Saudi Arabia), Sanusi and Mahdi movement by Dr Uthman Sayyid and Dr Yusuf Fazl Hassan (Sudan), Badi-uz-Zaman and the Nursi movement by Dr Talip Alp (Turkey), Salvation Party in Turkey by Dr Mohamed Harb (Egypt) and Syed Qutb by Dr Jaafar Shaikh Idris (Sudan).

The papers described the historical development of the Islamic movements, their ideological principles and their effects and consequences on the social environment. Discussions on papers dealing with Islam and the West, Syed Qutb's thought and the Mahadiya movements were the most lively. Yusuf al Qarzawi asked for a critical appraisal of Syed Qutb's commentary on the message and meaning of the Quran, while many other participants disputed the assertion of some scholars who hold the view that the Mahadiya movement had an essentially revivalist and reformatory character.

The seminar did not include papers on Islamic movements in North Africa or Iran. Moreover, a detailed discussion on the 12 papers could not take place due to lack of time.

CSO: 4400/136

EGYPT

CONDITIONS FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, USSR

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 16 Apr 85 p 5

[Editorial by Muhammad al-Hayawan: "A Word Of Love"]

[Text] Bridges are not built on straw, nor are they laid on heaps of chaff. Bridges of this kind collapse in a moment if exposed to any tremor or if water seeps under them, washing away the foundations and causing them to collapse.

The building of bridges requires engineering and design, the selection of the closest meeting point between the two banks of the river, the laying of strong foundations, a sturdy structure and the laying of one brick after another to come out with a crossable bridge that can take the largest vehicles and can bring people closer together.

In politics, some countries propose building friendship bridges with Egypt and the Egyptian people are a friendly and amiable people who do not refuse any friendship. The other sides, however, do not try to build bridges on a strong foundation of trust and understanding and do not look for the closest meeting points with the Egyptian people.

The USSR, for instance, is asking for the laying of friendship bridges with Egypt, but is trying to do so on their own terms, demanding that Egypt turn communist. It works for the destruction of society and religion, interferes in everything, including the freedom of the press, and looks upon anyone who asks for friendship with the West as its enemy. The USSR places explosives under the friendship bridge it wants to build with Egypt and is angered when these mines are discovered.

Israel is also asking for friendship bridges with Egypt. At the same time, it refuses to return Taba; it persists in its occupation of southern Lebanon where it is committing a massacre every day; it annexed Jerusalem and the Golan, stressing that it will not give back the West Bank and will not allow any communication with the Palestinian people; and rejects any comprehensive peace and imagines that Egypt's Arabism is against any Egyptian-Israeli accord.

In so doing Israel is not contributing to the building of the bridge, but rather is stealing every brick Egypt is trying to lay. Every time Egypt pour some

cement and iron in preparation for building the bridge, Israel takes them away because it does not want the building to begin.

Friendship bridges with the USSR and Israel requires time, good intentions and the building of trust. The USSR and Israel, however, are using straw to build such bridges.

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CSO: 4504/315

EGYPT

SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S U.S. TRIP ANALYZED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Mar 85 pp 1, 3

[Editorial by Musa Sabri: "Inside Picture of Mubarak's Trips; What Happened in Washington"]

[Text] George Will is an American journalist who represents the radical right in the United States. He was one of Reagan's biggest supporters in the first election, which Carter lost. Will was the first man to whom President Reagan paid a visit at home after winning that election. I guess he still supports Reagan since he won his second term. I recall that I met Will at his residence, which is located in one of Washington's plushest quarters, after Carter's loss and I felt that he is more royalist than the monarch, and I don't mean this phrase to signify Reagan only but Israel also, specifically the advocates of radicalism in Israel who still claim that the West Bank is part of Israel, as the Old Testament says.

Will's support for Reagan in Reagan's first presidential term emanated from his belief that the Soviet Union must be taught a hard lesson and must understand that the United States is the superpower and that this must be done with the serious threat of nuclear superiority. Will was very happy when ex-Secretary of State Haig terminated the special treatment accorded Dobrynin, the veteran Soviet ambassador, when he went to and came out of the Department of State under Carter's administration.

We now find that in his second presidential term, President Reagan has turned away from this challenge. He even used a different approach in his presidential campaign, portraying himself as a man of peace and not as the advocate of a devastating war with the Soviet Union. Recently, conciliation meetings began in Vienna between Washington and Moscow over the Middle East.

We believe that bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States are now stable, strong and firm and that Reagan's administration appreciates and respects the leadership role performed by Egypt for a comprehensive and lasting peace. Reagan has lauded this role in his

official speeches. The role has also been praised by Reagan's cabinet ministers at the open hearings held by U.S. congressional committees to discuss the issue of peace and of economic and military aid for Egypt.

But George Will has a different opinion. He depicts, with his bias for the opinions of some U.S. Zionists, the Egyptian peace proposals coming in the wake of the agreement between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat as theatrics emerging suddenly in the week when the U.S. budget is presented to the Congress and when foreign aid is discussed so that Egypt, as well as King Husayn, may plunder the U.S. taxpayer's money and loot the U.S. treasury!

George Will declares this opinion in Washington in a television interview with Israeli Minister Ezer Weisman in Jerusalem.

But the Israeli minister turns out to be less of an Israeli "Likudist" than the Christian American journalist and responds to this journalist by saying that the peace contacts had begun several months earlier and that the Israeli government headed by Peres had decided to withdraw from Lebanon and to achieve progress in the West Bank and Gaza in order to help start the peace negotiations. The Israeli minister also said: "We have resumed discussions with Egypt on the issue of Taba and a meeting will be held to end this problem. Moreover, a number of members of the Israeli cabinet (from the Labor Party) approve of President Mubarak's initiative to open a new path and achieve peace."

Weisman then asserted in clear words that President Mubarak and King Husayn took this step out of a sincere eagerness for peace, adding: "I know President Mubarak personally and I am convinced that his initiative emanates from profound and fundamental thinking, contrary to what some people are trying to depict."

Fact Which Scared Me

I judged it necessary to present this picture as an example. There was a fact which scared me during the week I spent in Washington prior to President Mubarak's arrival.

As soon as the first realistic and successful movement to solve the Palestinian issue--namely the King Husayn-'Arafat agreement and President Mubarak's proposals concerning the need for U.S. contacts with the PLO--began, storms were started by the advocates of radicalism in the Zionist lobby in the Congress, in the press and on television. These storms were countered by moderate and reasonable opinions. But fierce pressures continued to be exerted on President Reagan's administration and the forces rejecting peace began displaying their muscle.

Why?

But why did the activity of the radical Zionist elements, whether in the Congress, and particularly in the House of Representatives, or in the information media, escalate in the past month to distort Egypt's peace policy?

The reasons are numerous:

These elements did not expect the restoration of relations between Jordan and Egypt to be achieved and did not expect Egypt to play a role in bringing about an agreement between King Husayn and Yisir 'Arafat on the bases for peace negotiations.

Another reason is that Egypt, though not having diplomatic relations with most of the Arab countries, has maintained its contacts with all the Arab countries and has maintained its leadership role. They fear that this is at the expense of Israel and that it will lead to an Arab position that will push the U.S. administration to move after a long period of inactivity.

A third, and leading, reason is that what President Mubarak is advocating in order to open the peace path is founded on clear and realistic arguments that succeed in persuading U.S. public opinion.

Moreover, these radical Zionist elements saw that Egypt had prepared and planned splendidly for the success of President Mubarak's visit through the press and television interviews given by President Mubarak prior to his visit and published on the front pages of U.S. newspapers. Regardless of how strong the Jewish control over the U.S. press is, this press cannot disregard important events signifying a turning point. What the president expressed was tantamount to touching off anew the responsibilities of the United States in solving the Palestinian people's problem. The preparations also included the advance trip made by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the minister of foreign affairs, to Washington where he met with the administration officials and with members of Congress. His meetings were fruitful. Dr 'Abd-al'Majid then proceeded to hold official talks in London and Paris.

The preparations also included our dispatching Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, our ex-ambassador in Washington who is well known for his close connections, to the United States where he held 20 individual meetings and other meetings with a large number of members of Congress, some radical and some moderate. Ghurbal also met with Jewish organizations and underlined the danger of radicalism against establishing peace.

There was also the successful visit of Marshal Abu Ghazalah to the United States and Britain.

In addition to all this, there is also the awareness by these radical elements of the degree of respect accorded by the U.S. administration and by the world to the Egyptian regime under the leadership of President Mubarak. They are also aware of how deep and firm are Egyptian-U.S. relations.

This is why President Mubarak's visit to the United States was a fundamental and utmost requirement. I did not relax until the visit--a visit which was in the interest of all the Arab people, of the Palestinian people's cause which has lain dormant for a long time and of purifying the poisoned wells with which the radical forces have tried to influence Egypt's economic conditions or to tie the firm political and economic relations between Egypt and the United States to submission on Egypt's part to this radicalism that has sought to direct the White House policy according to its wishes--was over.

I say with a clear conscience that the outcome of the visit has been positive in serving its objectives.

The U.S. administration did not turn down what President Mubarak had called for and it listened attentively to the sincere and realistic arguments offered in honest advice to save pace. A new study has been initiated and its early signs are embodied in dispatching Murphy, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, to the Middle East for consultations with Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia and for continuing with Egypt the dialogue which started in Washington. Moreover, the Jordanian minister of foreign affairs is in Washington currently and a date may be set for a visit by King Husayn before or after Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's visit.

As for economic relations between the United States and Egypt and the Egyptian request for increased urgent aid, my journalistic investigations indicate that they are moving in the right direction.

Letters of Support

One of the most important accomplishments of the visit was the opportunity to address members of Congress with an irrefutable logic which the convoluted intentions of some members who speak the language of the Israeli radicalism could not twist and the opportunity to address the U.S. public with persuasive opinions which explained the facts and responded to all the counter campaigns which had been planned before the president's visit by the Zionist pressure elements that do not want a comprehensive and lasting peace. This was done through the excellent speech Mubarak delivered to the Press Club at the luncheon which the club gave in his honor and through the answers the president gave in frank words, with facts and without slogans in response to the questions addressed to him. The U.S. masses saw all this on their television screens and heard it on the radio.

It is no surprise after all this that I contacted 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Ridi, our ambassador in Washington, upon my arrival in the British capital, to hear from him the letters he received from the U.S. citizens greeting President Mubarak who had clarified the facts and supporting his approach to building Egypt and building peace.

For 17 Years

I report this picture because we must know that we are dealing with a democratic country in which Congress plays its full role in decision making, even dictates the decision. The information media are the path to the citizen's mind and it is no secret to anybody how strong is the Zionist control in these spheres. But what was unknown to me and is still unknown to some Arab leaders who have not agreed in the past 2 years on convening the Arab League Council is that the Zionist influence reached its peak since the latest congressional elections for both Senate and House of Representatives. A friendly American source in Congress told me: "I have been working here for 17 years and I have never felt that the voices supporting whatever Israel demands have ever been as strong as they have been in this Congress with its new structure since the latest elections."

The Senate is comprised of 100 members, including 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats, thus giving the Republicans (the ruling party) a slim majority. The Republican Party will face a more difficult position in the elections which will be held in 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years to select one-third of the Senate members. The Zionist lobby is making active efforts to enable the Democrats to obtain a majority so that the Reagan administration may lose the ability to push any decision through.

The House of Representatives is comprised of 435 members, including 182 from the ruling Republican Party and 251 from the Democratic Party, which has been known historically for its full support for all that Israel demands, even more! Two seats are vacant.

This does not mean that many of the Republicans are not aligned with Israel. However, the Zionist effort in the latest elections succeeded in supporting those who support Israel and in defeating those who support the Arab cause, even those known for their moderation.

The Zionist lobby succeeded in defeating Senator Percy, the former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who represented an element of moderation and of friendship with the Arabs.

We have also lost Republican Senator Howard Baker who was the Senate majority leader, who did not run in the elections and who represented an element of moderation. Moreover, we lost Senator Paul Tsongas, a moderate Democrat who did not run because he has cancer.

What Happened to This Senator?

I say that the latest elections increased the number of the elements supporting Israel and that the Zionist forces wanted to teach all a lesson by working to defeat members who supported Arab demands and ran for reelection. This does not mean that these forces succeeded in all districts. However, they never stop their ceaseless efforts.

For example, they tried to defeat Senator Helms, a strict conservative from North Carolina, who defeated their candidate Hunt despite all the Zionist backing.

When the Israeli invasion of Lebanon started, Helms stood up for the demand that the United States sever its relations with Israel.

Last week, and just prior to President Mubarak's visit, Helms moved from one extreme to the other and signed a document with five others asking President Reagan to leave the West Bank and Gaza under Israel's sovereignty!

This is what the Zionist forces are doing enthusiastically and ceaselessly, even though the Jewish organizations are long established, even though they have penetrated all aspects of public life long ago and even though they need to do so no more.

But what do the very "enthusiastic" Arabs do to defend our causes in these strongholds?

I can say that they are doing nothing. I can also say that the Egyptian effort is the only ceaseless effort.

Jewish forces in the U.S. finance 50 percent of the total election contributions to the Democratic Party. At the same time, they finance 25 percent of the contributions to the Republican Party even though Jews represent only 3 percent of the population.

It is no secret that Senator Granston, who was one of the Democratic presidential candidates, had the Senate issue at the end of its parliamentary session before the latest elections a resolution stating that U.S. aid to Israel may not be less than the total sum of the dues Israel owes the United States. The resolution was approved in seconds!

These forces cannot claim that they were behind Reagan's landslide victory. However, they have put their pressure on Congress, which has become the real ruler of the United States.

The Senate, despite its Republican majority, issued a resolution to advance the subsidy to the American farmers in this year of budget balancing and of shrinking expenditures. President Reagan has used his constitutional veto over the resolution. The issue will again be brought

before Congress in accordance with steps defined by the Constitution. The objection voiced by the senators, both Republican and Democratic, is: how can we advance aid in billions of dollars to foreign countries, some of which do not even vote with us at the United Nations, and then withhold a few hundred million from the American farmers?

Both senators and House members represent the interests of their electoral districts, regardless of whether they are Democrats or Republicans. Therefore, the Jews seek to control the major urban districts which are remote from the rural areas that are not concerned with foreign policy. Upon winning, they prefer membership on the Congressional Foreign Affairs Committee, especially in the subcommittees which debate foreign aid.

Our Image Is Illustrious

I do not wish to offer a gloomy picture because there are the moderate elements which put U.S. interests above all other considerations. Egyptian efforts for direct contacts have been ceaseless. The Egyptian regime, led by President Husni Mubarak, has its illustrious image which enjoys respect and appreciation--respect and appreciation for the democratic Egypt whose press is free, which is founded on constitutional institutions, which offers a model to the Third World and which is dealing with its economic situation seriously, with purity and with scientific and practical steps. The press interviews given by President Husni Mubarak have been published on the front pages of the most prominent U.S. papers. The meeting which the editorial staff of the WASHINGTON POST had with President Mubarak around the breakfast table--a meeting held at the invitation of the staff--came as a display of appreciation for Mubarak's leadership. Upon the President's departure, the paper published an editorial saying that economic realtions between the United States and Egypt cannot be tied to disagreements about relations between Egypt and Israel, that Egypt's demands for increased economic aid are important and urgent and that the United States should evaluate this in accordance with its interests and not according to the wishes of some members of Congress who support Israel. The paper described the position of these members as regrettable and unacceptable.

Honorable Pens

During this trip, I have read numerous articles by top journalists rejecting those political demonstrations that seek to obstruct the U.S. administration's movement to establish peace in the Middle East--"as long as the Arabs don't solve their own problems, why should we solve them for them?". Numerous U.S. writers, such as Philip Geyelin, Evans, Flora (Lewis) and Anthony (Lewis) and others are demanding that the United States play a positive role.

To understand why these famous writers are enthusiastic, we must know what happened in the special congressional committee when the issues concerning the urgent aid requested by Israel to rescue its economy were examined.

The U.S. administration has not yet set the amount it can approve. Modai, an Israeli cabinet minister who is holding talks in Washington, asserts in public statements that he will get what he has requested.

Allen Dulles, the U.S. under secretary of state for economic affairs and the head of the U.S.-Israel team discussing the Israeli economic situation, announced before the aid committee that the administration is determined not to set a figure until it completes examination of the facts of the economic situation in Israel because it is evident so far that the exchange rate is not suitable, that Israel's currency policy is unsound and that the budget is uncontrollable. Allen also said that the U.S. administration's efforts alone are not enough to rescue the Israeli economy. At the beginning of last October, the United States advanced to Israel a large sum in the form of a cash grant. This sum was devoured without achieving any economic benefit.

What was the response of the committee members supporting Israeli? If the administration does not present a proper figure on a given date, then we will determine the figure!

This subcommittee is comprised of 12 members of the House of Representatives and includes 5 Jews, 5 others who are sympathetic to Israel and only 2 neutral and objective members.

The Jewish members began to attack the U.S. administration's position for what they called a bias for Egypt!

Tom Lantos, a Democratic congressman, said that the political contacts taking place in the area are no more than a mirage.

Murphy, the U.S. assistant secretary for Mideast affairs, responded: "On the contrary, there is improvement in the situation. King Husayn has restored relations with Egypt and the Jordanian-Palestinian communique has been issued. There is movement." Ben Gilman, a Republican Jew, said: "How did you determine the economic aid figure for Egypt, keeping in mind that Egypt is facing economic problems? This is discrimination."

Allen Dulles responded: "There are consultations with Egypt. There is no connection between Egypt's and Israel's cases. The discussions with Moday continue. In 10 days, the foreign aid budget will be completed."

I present this picture, which is only part of a whole, so that we may appreciate how important and successful President Mubarak's visit has been in extinguishing this premeditated clamor.

On the 28th of last February, the same subcommittee heard the testimony of Murphy, the assistant secretary; Antoinette Ford, the representative of the AID; and General (Benz), the assistant secretary of defense, on the 1986 aid program for Egypt. Both Murphy and Antoinette Ford reviewed the strategic importance of Egypt and the serious steps made by Egypt to correct its economic course and presented a brief explanation on the aid program for Egypt.

Murphy said that President Mubarak's statements and Peres' response to these statements are positive and will help achieve peace in the area and that the administration will discuss President Mubarak's ideas with him when he arrives in Washington, as it will discuss the idea of reducing the interest rate on the loans.

Congressman Tom Lantos said: U.S. aid to other countries is tied to the degree of their political cooperation. At the United Nations, Egypt has voted with the United States 34 percent of the time whereas Israel has voted 93 percent of the time.

The assistant secretary of state responded that the U.S. administration believes that the cooperation between the two countries is different from what the deputy is saying. Antoinette Ford defended Egypt's use of the economic aid, saying that it is being used in the right places.

Let me also present in this picture an example of numerous questions raised by the biased deputies, questions bordering on the ridiculous, such as: Why doesn't Egypt agree to have a Voice of America station on its territory?

When we compare such questions with the dialogue which took place with President Husni Mubarak at the Senate and House committees, we find that the position has changed. After explaining Mideast developments and the Egyptian government's policy lines, the President heard words of respect and appreciation. At the Senate committee, the President heard Egypt's efforts and the importance of Egypt's leadership role being praised. He also heard the eagerness of the United States to maintain the best relations with Egypt. He heard this from the senator heading the committee. The President answered all the questions frankly and all learned that Egypt does not speak in two languages: one language in public and a different language behind the scenes. At the conclusion of the meeting, one of the members expressed his admiration, saying: What a man! What is more, none of the Senate committee members brought up again the regurgitated story concerning the Egyptian ambassador's return to Israel.

Three Directions

Throughout my stay in Washington, I exerted the utmost effort to hear numerous sides from outside Congress who are connected with the political

stage: sides biased for Israel and moderate Jewish and American sides denouncing and warning against the Zionist octopus that has spread to all U.S. institutions, excluding the Pentagon.

There is no disagreement among these sides in lauding Egypt's stability, Egypt's democratic rule and the serious leadership of President Mubarak.

This disagreement is over the following:

Those who are aligned with Israel, and I mean aligned with radicalism in Israel, are against the peace initiatives, demand normal relations between Egypt and Israel, cast doubts on any peace plan and want to tie America's relationship with Egypt and the moderate Arab countries to Zionist wishes. This is why they put pressure on the U.S. administration not to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia--weapons which King Fahd requested in his recent visit. They don't believe that peace negotiations according to the Egyptian proposals will be useful.

The moderate Jews believe that the path to peace will be paved, that there is no difference between a Palestinian who is a member of the PLO and one who is not and that this point will not be an obstacle in the face of initiating peace negotiations, provided that the well-known PLO leaders do not take part in them.

Americans who are beyond Jewish influence in the United States fully reject this influence imposing itself on relations between the United States and Egypt. One of these people told me that he expects some day, he doesn't know when, that a U.S. leader will stand up to declare to the U.S. people that this influence has become more dangerous than the mind can imagine, that all aid to Israel must be stopped immediately and that the U.S. taxpaying citizen will not put up with seeing a single dollar taken out of his pocket so that a minority may impose its opinion on U.S. external foreign and domestic policy.

I should say here that a number of intelligent U.S. groups have begun to be aware of this danger, have begun to follow liberal tendencies and have begun to say: We are Americans first and we must channel our efforts toward the issues of liberties primarily and toward the problems of U.S. society instead of appearing to be exploiting everything for the sake of Israel first and foremost.

Do-nothing Policy

There remains an important observation I have read in Washington.

In a political study, this observation analyzes why Reagan's and Shultz' movement on the Middle East crisis came to a standstill and how the U.S. position turned to coolness toward the Arabs and redoubled enthusiasm toward Israel.

The researcher calls this U.S. position the do-nothing policy. He reviews the succession of events: rejection of the Reagan initiative in September 1982, demolition of the Israeli-Lebanese accord formulated by Shultz and the blow against the U.S. marines in October 1983 which completely ended Shultz' mission.

All this led President Reagan's advisers to make the decision to withdraw the marines in February 1984 because it was their assessment that a loss for Reagan in the presidential elections would be much more serious than the crisis of Lebanon.

Shultz also realized that his reliance on the Saudis and the Jordanians in solving Lebanon's crisis had led to nowhere.

At this point, Israel said to Washington: "Didn't we tell you from the start that you will not succeed in dealing with the Arabs?" Israel then exploited the opportunity and concluded the strategic cooperation agreement with the United States.

The mission of all the U.S. presidential envoys to the Middle East, including Philip Habib, Don Rumsfeld, Silverman and Richard Fairbanks, came to an end and Shultz completely washed his hands off the matter, saying: "If they don't like the U.S. policy, then let them try to overcome their difficulties by themselves." This became the undeclared U.S. policy in the wake of the Arab disputes.

Shultz dropped the Middle East from the itinerary of his foreign visits in December 1983, leaving the task for Richard Murphy, his assistant who flew from Amman to Damascus, Beirut and Riyadh to carry words from one capital to the other, thus implementing the "do-nothing" policy.

In the context of this U.S. inactivity, "radical" Syria turned to the United States and secretly offered its services which the U.S. administration appreciated. Voices that were publicly making fiery statements also turned to the United States secretly with a different tone.

So why should Reagan change the "do-nothing" policy vis-a-vis the Arabs in view of the failure of his previous efforts and since it has become obvious to the obstructive Arabs that the Soviet role had no impact on the solutions?

Vicious Cycle and Destruction

I may agree with this researcher on one fact, namely that the Arabs did waste numerous opportunities with the so-called "wasted-time policy," which is sometimes against which Egypt had warned repeatedly. President Mubarak's voice went hoarse in warning against this policy and demanding a united Arab position before and after Reagan's

election. Egypt played a positive role in bringing about agreement between Husayn and 'Arafat and President Mubarak has declared his proposals to revive the frozen situation.

Thus, President Mubarak performed a truly enormous political role when he made this visit to announce in his closed official talks and publicly before U.S. public opinion and before the Congress that the United States is a superpower and must move because it shoulders responsibilities toward establishing peace, that a feeling of failure must not mean abandoning these responsibilities and duties and that failure by a small country in achieving an objective may cause it to halt but the failure by a small country in achieving an objective may cause it to halt but the failure of a superpower should urge it to move anew because this steering away from facing the reality and from communicating with the people truly concerned with the problem, namely the Palestinians who are represented by the PLO, is tantamount to an invitation to these people to engage in violence which threatens U.S. and European interests. Fighting violence with violence will not solve the problem.

This is an important point because they in the United States imagine that they can fight violence. It is well known that the United States has formed special military units to combat terrorism, that these units have already been trained and that the U.S. aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean are capable, according to U.S. sources, of striking the camps that train terrorists--camps determined by the United States to exist in some Arab locations and in Iran.

But striking some of these locations will never extinguish the flame of suicidal kamikaze in the hearts of thousands of those who believe in their causes.

The Americans held the Vienna meetings with the Russians to avert a confrontation between the two superpowers in the Middle East. This is what the Reagan administration stated before the congressional committees.

If the Arab forces have chosen the path of peace, if Russia is against violence and terrorism and if Yasir 'Arafat has chosen the path of moderation and negotiations, then why shouldn't the United States resume its role and fulfill its responsibilities toward achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace?

My interlocuter, a moderate American Jew, told me that Reagan feels that he has succeeded in his policy toward the Soviet Union. This is his feeling. Reagan's success may not be real but he has put relations with Moscow at the top of his agenda and with the Middle East in second place because he does not want to repeat his failure with the disputing Arabs.

After observing the U.S. position before, during and after President Mubarak's visit, I believe that President Husni Mubarak has achieved a major objective in awakening a real American role dealing with a new reality after conveying his message and demonstrating the dangers of a negative position taken by a superpower that is now cooperating with the other superpower, namely the Soviet Union, in an agreement not to embark on confrontation over the Middle East crisis.

I believe that the U.S. administration fully understands the sincere Egyptian position, which warns of difficult days ahead and which truly believes in establishing a just and lasting peace. It is now up to all the parties concerned to move and up to Europe to play its role with greater conviction on the danger of terrorism. This is what Mubarak's contacts in Paris, London, Bonn and Venice have achieved.

As for bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States, whether pertaining to military or economic aid, I do not doubt, as I have already pointed out, that President Mubarak's visit has strengthened these relations in the interest of Egypt, that is, of truly enabling Egypt to overcome its economic hardships and of protecting the sacred soil from any aggression. The results of this visit will take their course in the U.S. administration through the Congress.

In conclusion, I may have dwelt too long on the issue. However, I wanted to dot some i's and cross some t's. Let me again say that Israel does not stop exerting efforts in the United States to achieve its interests despite the overwhelming influence of the Jewish forces and despite its relationship which ties it strategically to the United States. Israel is also seeking to resume its relationship with the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, we, the Arabs, talk to ourselves and some do the honor of vilifying and attacking the Egyptian role that has never at any moment retreated from its historic responsibility toward the Palestinian people's cause, that is building the internal Egyptian structure with the supremacy of the law and with independent Egyptian decision making and that speaks the same language both publicly and behind the scenes.

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EGYPT

COMMENTARY ON MUBARAK'S U.S. TRIP, MEDIA COVERAGE

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 18 Mar 85 p 8

[Editorial by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi: "Shame"]

[Text] Excuse me, Mr President. I have hesitated a great deal before writing this letter to you, especially since you have just this moment returned from a long and difficult journey, in the course of which you met with many rulers and presidents, international organizations, parliamentary and party leaders in Europe and America, and even with the representatives of world Zionism.

I would have liked to have put off this letter for a time, Mr President, but I found that it would not bear postponement, because of its connection with this trip of yours and with its surrounding events and expected results.

Ever since the trip was announced more than a month ago, the government newspapers, radio, and television have all taken to playing a single tune in their articles, reports, and features--all offering the Egyptian people optimistic predictions of general prosperity and assured results in the wake of the visit, and of how these countries' capitals and presidents were waiting on hot coals for this visit. As if that were not enough, the newspapers went so far as to offer assurance that there would be American aid, or at least a "good loan" [i.e. one that is interest-free] for a billion dollars from America, which Dr al-Ganzuri would bring to the Egyptian treasury as a radical solution for our economic problems; and that the American government was considering lowering the interest rates on the loans, or perhaps even rebating the loans, in order to relieve us.

The ridiculous part of this is that the government media described the timing of the trip as "coming at precisely the right time." Now I don't have to swear an oath on the Koran to it, but had the visit taken place six months earlier or a year later, the media would have said the same thing: "The trip has come at precisely the right time."

I want to say, Mr President, that it would be a minor matter if the hypocrisy of these organs were limited to our local circumstances. But the hypocrisy extends to matters which we do not control, and this is a matter of utmost concern. For example, this widespread view in the media that the American

government was about to agree forthwith to all our requests, this way of treating so difficult a journey and of covering the news of it--did those responsible for our media think that this was merely a way of putting the American government into an awkward position and of forcing it to offer us aid which it did not desire to offer? Did none of them ask himself about the effect on the minds of Egyptians if the Americans were to refuse to grant all our requests, or--as happened--were to cut them to a fifth? How would they then describe the results of this long and difficult journey?

But, thank God, our people are accustomed to not trusting these media or listening to the kind of things that they have heard for decades. Our people believe exactly the opposite of what these men say.

I would have imagined that the "great minds" in the government newspapers would have opened the file on Egyptian-Israeli-American relations since your refusal to visit Jerusalem, for they--I mean the Jews and the Americans--are not going to forget it. Nor will they forget your positon on the siege of the Palestinian resistance in Beirut, or the siege of Yasir 'Arafat in Tripoli, or his being accorded the sort of reception in Egypt normally given to presidents and kings. Nor will they forget your position concerning the withdrawal of the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv, or about their attempts to normalize relations. All these things have led the Americans to take their recent position, thinking, for their part, that it would represent pressure on the Egyptian people and on the national leadership.

If this was the cause of their final position, then it is time for us also to have . . . a final position.

With the meaningful precondition, first, of . . . setting the house in order.

12937
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EGYPT

ROLE OF CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR ANALYZED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 23 Apr 85 p 3

/Editorial by Jalal-al-Din al-Hamamsi: "Smoke In The Air; Central Bank Governor, Does He Have A Key Role?"/

/Text/ It is time we tackled the roots of problems and stopped being satisfied with temporary or other solutions that seem different on the surface, but deep down are the same.

For example, do the events in the economic arena carry the signs of a basic and radical change? And does that constitute a sign to us that the key economic agencies have all the capabilities for action and for rejecting inappropriate directives?

National Planning Institute advisor Dr Fawzi Riyad Fahmi has a viewpoint which I would like to note here because it touches the wounds and prescribes some remedies.

Please allow me to deal with one aspect of the recent economic issue from other than the technical angle. There is no doubt that the open-door policy means the emergence of numerous and different interests. Take the foreign currency issue for instance.

First, the currency dealers created by the importation system without money transfers. Very simply, how can imports be paid for without money transfers from Egypt? And who collects currency from Egyptians abroad? No doubt the currency dealers. Therefore, the system encourages the presence of such a group.

Second, there are the Egyptians working abroad who are paid in foreign currency against the dollar. It is to their advantage to exchange their dollars for Egyptian pounds at the highest rate. Also, very simply /put/, will they exchange at the official rate of 84 Egyptian piasters to the dollar (prior to the 5 January resolutions) or at 125 piasters which was the market price at the time? The difference between the two rates is quite significant.

Third, there are large groups of low-income consumers whose interests conflict with the interests of those calling for a high exchange rate for the dollar and prefer the importation of basic commodities to luxury items.

We are heading towards a multi-interest society, a basic characteristic of the democratic system. It is natural, indeed basic, for these interests to be reflected by the political parties.

Hence, it is important that the Central Bank be given a key role in the economic life that would decree its non-subordination to the government and even the prime minister. The word subordination basically connotes compliance with the policy of the government which represents a specific party that reflects special interests, while one function of the Central Bank governor is to counsel the government, not carry out its orders. Indeed, the real strength of the Central Bank governor lies in his ability to say "no" to the government. The living proof we have before us is the U.S. where Mr Volcker, whose position is comparable to the Central Bank governor, opposes some aspects of President Reagan's economic policy and declares his views frankly.

Perhaps the history of central banks of the world shows that the instance when the central bank governors said "no" to their governments far outnumbers the times they said "yes."

On the other hand, the Central Bank, a strictly government institution, does not operate in isolation from the government, for the presence of a government representative on the board of directors guarantees the conveyance of relay of government policy.

It is very important to bear in mind that confidence in the economic and political system stems primarily from giving various interests a chance to express their opinion in a democratic climate based on calm and serious scientific debate.

The point of view ends here. Now I wonder, what would happen if we were to adopt this or other opinions that bestow power and position upon the Central Bank governor?

12951
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EGYPT

COMMENTARY ON SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Apr 85 p 5

[Editorial by Muhammad al-Hayawan: "A Word of Love"]

[Text] Every year the Socialist Prosecutor issues an annual report and every year we pick out a figure from it worthy of comment. Last year, the Socialist Prosecutor boasted that he put 500 million Egyptian pounds under receivership and this year, the figure hit one billion pounds. We have to say here that taking this large amount out of circulation, in a normal way, is a crime against the national economy, as well as a return to the receivership and capital intimidation era.

We must reaffirm that it will not be held against us if we attack the Socialist Prosecutor because it is an extraordinary apparatus that draws its power of prosecution from the General Prosecutor's office, the natural side that safeguards the rights of society. And because it is an extraordinary apparatus, it has no immunity and, therefore, no one will be held responsible for commenting on its resolutions.

This year, he mentioned in his report an even stranger and more astonishing figure. He said he watched the names of 107,000 candidates for high positions and boards of directors, a very difficult task indeed. To do this, he must have sought the help of the police, the security and investigative agencies. This figure means that, thanks to the Socialist Prosecutor, we have turned into a police state in which no citizen can get his right to promotion and candidacy without a laissez-passer from the police under the name of the Socialist Prosecutor. Although the report says that he did not block anyone, the enormity of this figure reaffirms that the role of this apparatus was confined to pushing papers to the police.

Another matter mentioned in the report gave the Socialist Prosecutor a new job that did not belong to him. It seems he gave it to himself under the pretext of protecting public property. The prosecutor turned into an usher of public sector company properties owed by some merchants. This matter does not need

the intervention of the Socialist Prosecutor because it is a trade matter governed by the trade law, the collection code and the bankruptcy rules, in the event that merchants failed to pay up; or by the General Prosecutor's office in case of fraud, swindle and deception. But the intervention of the Socialist Prosecutor cut short all these natural measures because summoning a merchant to the Socialist Prosecutor's office is sure to terrorize him and convince him to pay up his debts, even if he did not owe any to the public sector. He pays through the Socialist Prosecutor to save his skin from other measures, the least of which are receivorsehip and scandals in the Values Court.

12951

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EGYPT

EDITORIAL DENIES TELEVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR JUVENILE CRIME

Cairo MAYU in Arabic 25 Mar 85 p 1

[Editorial by Ibrahim Samir: "The Media Falsely Accused"]

[Text] On the heels of every crime that shakes society, some people see fit to accuse the Egyptian media of being the cause behind these new and frightening crimes. The press, according to what these people say, is responsible for the dissoluteness of the younger generation because of the destructive ideas and exciting images it presents to it. Television, too, as these people assert, is involved in corrupting the new generation by means of the low films and licentious programs it shows, and by means of the foreign serials that conflict with our values, religion, and traditions.

The danger of this nowadays frequently repeated charge is that it has begun to meet with increasing support, not only from the man in the street, but also has found those who would support it, espouse it, and make their first and last interest the criticism of the Egyptian media and the demand for a change in everything that the media have become accustomed to offering the Egyptian citizen to read, hear, or see, so that in the future what is presented will be in accord, as they see it, with our religion, belief, and traditions.

In the face of this increasing pressure on the part of those opposed to what the television is showing, the authorities are being forced to increase the censorship of entertainment and dramatic programs, with the result that the censor's scissors are filling the programs with cuts, suppressions, and disfigurements. At the same time, the programs which these critics describe as being in accord with our religion, belief, and traditions are being greatly increased in number. Moreover, the two channels are competing with each other in offering the desired sort of very serious, very religious, and very purposeful programs.

These extremely serious programs are not welcomed by the majority of the audience; or, more correctly, they will never be accepted by the younger generation that is the target of those who are demanding such programs in the hope that youth will find its way, become quiet, and turn away from excitement, violence, and crime. Instead, crime is increasing, delinquent youth are becoming masters in crime and violence, and the fury of those who

are irritated by the media is increasing in scope and demanding even more serious, purposeful programs and the elimination of the last remaining diverting, entertaining, or dramatic television programs. What I most fear is that the day will come very soon when the television will show only the kind of very serious "deep" programs that are being demanded. The audience will turn away, leaving only those who actually wrote, produced, or presented the programs to follow them!

With the spread of the video recorder, the new generation will find no difficulty in watching what it likes in the way of films forbidden and proscribed from being shown on television. With the revolution in television transmission via satellite, no power will be able to prevent citizens from receiving what those satellites transmit--television programs broadcast by dozens of countries around us, programs not subject to censorship and not committed to our religion, traditions, or seriousness. The result to be expected from all this is that Egyptian television will isolate itself with its serious programs and absolute engagement, and will find no one to watch it or even criticize it. Is this what we want? Is this what we are striving for with our eagerness all to turn into experts in television criticism, professors of psychology, specialists in religious education, and scissor-wielding heroes of cutting, suppression, and disfigurement?

The spread of juvenile crime has many and numerous reasons, television programs being the least important. Investigate the real reasons, and devote more investigation to the mode of treating them, rather than this strange insistence on attacking television, cutting its entertainment programs, intimidating those responsible for them, and chasing the viewers away. The hours of the day are overladen with toil, care, and unending problems. Do not increase the weight of these hours by depriving the citizen of his right to smile and laugh, if only for a few minutes.

12937
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EGYPT

NUBIANS ACCUSE GOVERNOR OF RACIST POLICY

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 29 Mar 85 p 4

[Article: "Nubians Demand Removal of Governor of Aswan Because of his Racism and Intention to Demean them"]

[Text] More than a thousand Nubian citizens held a conference last Friday to voice disapproval of the intentional insults which Governor Qadri 'Uthman directs against the Nubians and of his persistent attempts to denigrate them and their abilities and to ridicule them. The conference was held in the wake of an insult which the governor directed at 'Abidin Siyam, general director of antiquities of Aswan, in the presence of the Cultural Committee of People's Assembly, at the Cataract Hotel, when he said to him so as to be heard by everyone, "Even that 'Berber' [an old term for Nubians] 'Abidin Siyam didn't attend."

The conference sent telegrams of disapproval to the president of the republic, the prime minister, the president of the People's and the Consultative Assemblies, and the minister for local government. They stated that it was impossible to work with the governor as political and executive leader of the governorate given the seriousness of the situation. The conference also implored the Nubian members of the popular assemblies to attend the sessions and to register their disapproval. The conference decided to dispatch to Cairo a delegation representing all the Nubians of Egypt to submit the matter to the responsible authorities.

The director of antiquities presented a complaint to the prosecutor's office, accusing the governor of slander and defamation of him and the Nubians. Responsibility for investigating the case was assumed by Muhammad 'Abdallah Halafallah, the chief prosecutor.

12937
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SUDAN

NUMAYRI CRACKDOWN ON MUSLIM BROTHERS ASCRIBED TO 'GRAND SATAN'

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English Apr 85 pp 14-16

[Text]

When the *Washington Post* reported (February 18) that the United States has suspended payment of nearly \$200m in economic assistance to Sudan, due to steady deterioration in the Sudanese economy and political situation, the decision was said to have reflected the growing despair among western donors and international aid agencies about President Jaafar Numeiri, "who is bent on the Islamisation of his country, apparently without regard to the economic and political cost."

Commenting on this, a source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in Tripoli said, on February 20, that Libya was "deeply indignant" at the American attempt to interfere in the religious beliefs of the Sudanese Muslim people and expresses its readiness to extend aid to Sudan equal to that given by America.

Whether responding to this Libyan threat or to the *Washington Post* report, the American State Department was compelled to announce immediately on February 21 that relations between the US and Sudan are excellent; that programmes of food aid, development assistance, and military aid totalling \$200m have not been interrupted. "Several months ago," said the State Department, "it was decided to delay further disbursement of our economic support fund programme, pending the Sudan government implementation of an economic reform package." The department noted that Vice-President George Bush would visit Sudan during an African tour to rule out the incorrect conclusion that there is a crisis in relations between the US and Sudan.

The crisis that Sudan is facing is not primarily in its relations with the US. It is, in fact, a crisis of drought and famine that affects more than four million people, now making their way towards the capital, Khartoum, and other urban centres — while the government, with its trade and budget deficit, its notorious \$9bn debt and the unceasing civil war in the South, is as helpless and penniless as ever.

The aftermath of this acute food crisis, accompanied by mass migration, will surely end in political tension that might naturally pave the way for external intruders and internal rebels. If the Americans ignore these pressing facts, or insist on suspending their aid to Numeiri's government, it is not impossible that Qaddafi of Libya might step in, invited or otherwise — so dramatically threatening US designs in the region.

Of course, the American administration cannot fail to see all this, and will not forget that Sudan is of key importance to its own strategic interests as well as those of its allies in the region. Nevertheless, the administration has lost confidence in Numeiri's rationality and has become impatient with piecemeal solutions — instead, an entire political reform package should be implemented. This package includes a total elimination of the Islamic forces with whom Numeiri is allied; abandoning his adherence to Islamic fundamentalism; changing his economic policy so that it is acceptable to aid donors and the International Monetary Fund; and lastly, the finding of a political solution to satisfy the rebels in the South.

If Numeiri still refuses to take this course of action the US, and probably

Egypt, would alternatively find themselves inclined not only to withdraw their support but to manage positively to create a new political set-up in Sudan and secure their strategic interests in the region. Some informed sources have gone as far as to name the candidates for the new pro-American government; a newly-established front led by Mansour Khalid, former Sudanese foreign minister, Khalil Osman, the Sudanese millionaire, and Mohammad Omer Bashir, an academic—all said to be lobbying in the West and among Arab governments for support.

Numeiri, receiving this message from different sources and in different languages, did not hesitate to act. Before seeing Vice President Bush, he declared (on March 3) a ceasefire by his troops, and limited their role to defence in case of attack by the outlaws. He also authorised an austerity package which devalued the Sudanese pound and sent the prices of many basic items soaring.

Applying political pressure through economic aid is not a new thing in US-Sudan relations. A few months ago, key Congressmen wrote to Secretary of State Shultz urging the cessation of aid to Sudan "until it shows that it is pursuing a policy of political reconciliation and negotiation." If this were the only precondition for aid, then the aforementioned economic measures and the conciliatory gesture towards the Southern rebels would certainly assure the Congressmen; but to the bad luck of the poor Muslims, there is another American precondition to be met: "We want to contain radical forces," a senior US official told the Sudanese government.

What really went on in the Bush-Numeiri meeting was not fully reported by Numeiri, who told the press that he had received a message from President Reagan reiterating US support and willingness to extend all assistance Sudan needs to solve its problems. But 72 hours after Bush left Khartoum, President Numeiri announced that a Muslim group had been discovered by his security forces to be plotting to overthrow his regime. Accordingly, 140 members of the Muslim Brotherhood, including Dr Hassan al-Turabi, the president's adviser on foreign affairs and leader of Ikhwan, were arrested. By mid-March, more than 300 people were arrested!

Numeiri's statement, broadcast on Saturday, March 9, accused a "religious group" of "exploiting the people's interests and infiltrating the state organs." A list of hybrid allegations followed, and most of the current economic and security problems of Sudan were attributed to that "religious group"—in other words, the Muslim Brothers. But why not mention them by name, when all of those detained were either supporters or members of Ikhwan? Again, why has Numeiri acted now, after the Milan and Paris talks with Qaddafi's representatives on a possible resumption of relations between Sudan and Libya, and just after the Bush visit to Khartoum? Above all, why has Numeiri attacked those who assisted him—despite opposition by all other factions and groups—through the most difficult years in Sudan's history?

It is very difficult to believe that a coup was being planned by the Muslim Brothers against Numeiri. Eight years is clearly too long a period for the "preparation" of an overthrow by a group whose major policies have already been partially implemented in the country through Numeiri's own initiative. In the circumstances, with Sudan opposed to Libya, Ethiopia, the rebels in the South and other hostile elements, it can not be said that the Muslim Brothers had the intention of taking over but were "waiting for a suitable chance." What Ikhwan was planning was a peaceful application of an Islamic way of life and government in the Sudan, which indeed was already being implemented. So who was opposed to this taking place? In whose interests is it to see the Islamisation programme swept away, or at least for this serious and politically well-developed force in Sudan to disappear from the political arena?

The purging of Ikhwan from the judiciary and the attorney-general's office, together with their counterparts in the executive and legislative bodies, took the form of a virtual coup d'état, which restored to power former anti-Islamic loyalists of Numeiri. Yet that does not seem the end of the matter. Numeiri himself and his Islamisation programme are the next target.

Rumours in Sudanese circles nominate either Abul Gassim Muhammad Ibraheem or Omer Muhammad El Tayeb as successors. The first spearheaded the campaign against amending the

constitution in favour of Islamisation. He was appointed, or actually reintroduced, to the government as minister of youth to begin the confrontation with Ikhwan as a symbol of the early May Revolutionaries. Dr Mansour Khalid, an ex-minister and an active opponent of Numeiri since the introduction of Sharia laws, associated Abul Gassim Muhammad Ibraheem with the days of revolutionary purity and cleanliness — which is outrageous, since Ibraheem is no more than a demagogue. Mansour Khalid is a leading figure in the opposition group of ex-ministers, based in London and said to be American-backed.

Dr Bashir Abbadi, Bonna Maiwal and Badr Eddin Sulaiman are the allies of Dr Khalid who travelled to Kuwait, Ethiopia and various European capitals in a bid to unify the opposition and mobilise support. Their first condition in the 18-article agreement they proposed to the rebels in the South was the suspension of Sharia laws and the exclusion of Muslim Brothers from the government. A well-known American CIA agent, a consultant in the People's Palace, is in contact with Dr Abbadi and Dr Khalid and they meet regularly in London to discuss their Islamisation plans for Sudan.

Abbadi is being introduced to the Americans as an expert in the field of Islamic movements. Badr Eddin Sulaiman, who was to be a direct victim of the introduction of Sharia in a few weeks time, is now raising the banner of "protecting the revolution from the Ikhwan, who are planning to contain the revolution" (his phraseology).

As the first secretary of the SSU, Badr Eddin lost his position as a result of launching an indiscriminate campaign against Ikhwan — which directly affected the process of Islamisation in its early stages. Baha Eddin Mohammad Idris, the symbol of the regime's corruption, was to follow, as a token of Numeiri's integrity and sincerity towards Islamisation. Baha Eddin was later reappointed and even promoted when there was felt to be a need to mastermind a campaign against the Islamists. Baha is a safeguard for the self-interests of the West, and the representative of various internal interest groups. His animosity towards Ikhwan was only matched by that of Omer Muhammad El Tayeb, the first vice-president, head of security, and the second contender for succeeding Numeiri.

Omer El Tayeb's confrontation with Ikhwan was accelerated when his brother was tried by a judge said to be affiliated

with the Muslim Brotherhood. In a significant number of corruption trials, El Tayeb was either involved or attempted to intervene to protect somebody — which brought him many confrontations with jurists and one advocate, who was arrested by Omer's elements in the security organisation. Omer was also provoked by a proposed amendment of the constitution concerning the process of succession, for which he accused Muslim Brothers of plotting against him. Personalisation of politics in despotic totalitarian regimes is a norm. Omer did not wait for Numeiri to inaugurate his campaign against Ikhwan immediately after the first Sharia conference — he began fabricating accusations, making use of his security position.

In a recent communication with an opposition group who proposed to cooperate with him in an attempted coup d'état, El Tayeb's reply was that he has been stripped of all his former powers he had. El Tayeb used to promise the opposition all kinds of things in order to keep a line of retreat in case some unpleasant eventuality materialised; the fact is, Omer El Tayeb is trying to delude the opposition while working for a more peaceful transfer of power into his hands.

Last October, a high-ranking Sudanese official, in a meeting with Khalid El Kidd (a communist ex-officer) in a Sudanese diplomat's home in London, revealed the extensive cooperation and coordination between Baha and palace ministers, El Tayeb and Numeiri in planning for the crackdown on Ikhwan. Coincidentally, another opposition meeting in London was discussing the same thing and decided to send Badr Eddin to convince the Egyptian authorities to participate in combating the threat hanging over the Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood. A third meeting in London of a different group — that of Dr. Khalid — followed. In all these London meetings there was a common objective, namely the aborting of Islamisation by liquidating the Islamic leadership.

Numeiri himself was reminded — by an Arab ambassador in Khartoum, while a million Sudanese were demonstrating in support of Sharia — that the unprecedented mobilisation of the masses and the organisation of the Sharia conference were indicative of the Muslim Brotherhood's power and its threat to the regime. Numeiri's fears and doubts were vented in a conference of the SSU in the aftermath of the Sharia conference, some

delegates and participants of which were in Khartoum when Numeiri began attacking Ikhwan. In a subsequent press interview he called them "the diabolical brothers".

Numeiri's intolerance of the results of his own Islamisation policies can only be explained by looking at the impatience of the Americans. To them, the issue of Islamisation and Islamists in the Middle East is a fundamental one. They see it as nonsensical to consider the Sudanese Muslim Brothers apart from their Egyptian counterparts, for example, or those who assassinated Sadat in 1981. Numeiri's statement even mentioned Iran and the possibilities of "exporting" their revolution to Sudan.

Whatever the Sudanese political prospects may be, the remaining fact is that the majority of Sudan's people adhere to Islam as a faith and a way of life. Their customary law derives its sanctity from the principles of Sharia. The social norms and ethics are well rooted in Islamic teachings. Against this background, the potential political momentum could be nothing but Islamic — the extent of which would depend on other factors. Most important would be the type of leadership in the country and, to make use of the lesson of March 9, the significance and proximity of foreign influence — mainly western in the case of Sudan. Sudanese-Arab relations are also significant.

CSO: 4500/93

TUNISIA

ISLAMIC TENDENCY LEADER RACHED GHANNOUCHI INTERVIEWED

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English Apr 85 pp 18-20

[Interview with Rached Channouchi by Abdul Hasib Castenera]

[Text] Rashid al Ghanoushi, the well-known leader of the Tunisian Islamic Trend Movement, was released from jail last August after three years of a ten-year sentence for opposing Bourguiba's anti-Islamic policies. He here speaks to Abdul Hasib Castenera about his experiences in the Islamic movement and the future of the movement in North Africa.

Could you reveal your personal history and how you became involved in the struggle in the way of Islam?

I completed my secondary education in the old Zaytuna Madrassah, before it was closed down by the Tunisian government. I am of the generation of Zaytuna students during the early years of independence. I remember we used to feel like strangers in our own country. We had been educated as Muslims and as Arabs, while we could see the country totally moulded in the French cultural identity. For us, the doors to any further education were closed since the university was completely westernised. At that time, those wanting to continue their studies in Arabic had to go to the Middle East.

I was one of those who decided to complete their studies in the Middle East. I matriculated in the faculty of philosophy and letters at Damascus, specialising in philosophy, and graduated four years later. When I began my university studies in 1964, the trend in the country was Arab nationalism so I adhered to that for a period of time. Its content was a scientific socialism, very close to Marxism. Consequently, during my first years of

university I was a secularist. In my inner self, however, I did not cease to be a believer. I used to fast during the month of Ramadan but did not fulfil the prayers and other requirements of the Din.

I had always understood being an Arab and being a Muslim as inseparable realities, such as it is understood among our people in North Africa. In the Middle East, however, there are Christian Arabs and others belonging to various non-Islamic sects. There, the concept of Arabism is very often in opposition to Islam.

My affiliation to Arab nationalism did not last for long. When I came in touch with the other activists within the university who did not share the ideas of nationalism, the Islamists, I began a dialogue with them which progressively weakened the hold of Arab nationalism on my mind. After some time I realised that Arab nationalism was opposite to Islam, while the Arab sentiments and identity — in which I had been educated — and Islam were one and the same thing. At that time I was a member of the Nasserite Nationalist Party of Syria, but once I learned its true meaning I chose to

abandon it and adopted Islam in its totality. Progressively I felt more and more inclined to fight all those secular tendencies in each of its manifestations.

After that I moved to France in order to follow higher studies there, but due to family circumstances I had to return to Tunisia only one year later. Here I started work as a teacher of philosophy in a secondary school. From that moment I started my Islamic activities among the youth. That was at the end of the 1960s.

In that school we started by reopening an old mosque which had been abandoned for some time. In the initial stages I used to dedicate most of my efforts to demonstrate to my students the contradictions and errors of every materialistic ideology, using logical reasoning. Then I would present the point of view of Islam and prove its superiority over all the other western doctrines.

In reality our true work started in the 1970s, when a small group of young men was formed here in the capital. In those years it was difficult to find a young man praying, especially if he was from the so-called educated people. As for girls, to see any dressed as a Muslim was almost impossible. Among the members of that very first group was Abdul Fattah Moro.

We had two levels of activity: Secondary schools, in which we would promote conferences and gatherings, and the mosques, where we organised lessons in Islam. Sometimes we used to go out on the streets to call people to Islam, as does the Jama'a At-tabligh (the Pakistani-based group).

Did the authorities try to obstruct these activities?

At that time nobody thought that an Islamic movement would have any success in the midst of an atmosphere saturated with materialistic values, where everything invites to the transgression of the limits of Islam. The system had taken the precaution of indoctrinating the youth — the materialistic tendency rendered them useless and servile. However, when the number of Islamists began to grow the government tried to paralyse all our activities.

This forced us to think of other modes of action. We decided to change our strategy and to take our activities to a secret arena, in our own houses. We formed groups with the purpose of

educating ourselves in Islam. Each of these groups comprised eight or ten brothers, with one being responsible for the group. The education consisted of memorising the Quran, as well as studying the Sunna and other sciences of Islam.

We used to help each other in everything that brought us closer to Allah, making a small Islamic society. For instance we established regular contributions to cover our expenses. These small groups began to grow until they spread all over the country.

After some time the secondary school students went to the university and there began the struggle between Islamists and Marxists. The Marxists were for some years the dominant trend in the classrooms and they did not hesitate to resort to what they called "revolutionary violence" against us. That situation forced the Islamists to respond likewise on more than one occasion in order to defend themselves. After ten years of continuous fighting, the Islamists became the force in the universities and are nowadays considered as the strongest of all movements among students. Meanwhile, in secondary schools we achieved the opening of a mosque in almost every single school.

In view of the progress of our dawa, we chose to enter the workplace — through the labour unions. In our country there is a very strong tradition. The labour organisation of Tunisia is the strongest in the whole African continent and in all the Arab world. At first, this union (the General Union of Tunisian Workers — UGTT) was dominated and controlled by the Destour Party, that is, the party of the government. After a long struggle the Marxists managed to gain control of the union. In the late seventies a general strike took place in the country. Workers were confronted by the state's security forces and there were many casualties. As a consequence of that crisis the Destour Party was excluded from the union.

We had remained on the sidelines of all those violent events and we did not take part in any of them. We had no unionist activity because we were somehow prejudiced in such a manner that unionism was alien to us. The social confrontation between the rich and the poor is a Marxist formula which did not correspond to our understanding of life. Later on, we

realised that Islam also has a say in that confrontation and that, as Muslims, we could not stay indifferent to it. Islam gives support to the oppressed.

In our country we found that the group allied with international capitalism exploits the common people and by that, the harmony and balance in social coexistence is broken. It is true that Islam does not pretend to absolute equality in people's material status because that is just impossible, but it is also certain that in an Islamic society it is not admissible that a few people have everything while others are dying of hunger. The Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said: "He is not a believer who goes to sleep full, while his neighbour is hungry and he knows it." In another well-known hadith, he praised a group of people from the tribe of al-Ash'ariyun: "When their provisions are exhausted, or poverty strikes them, they gather their stocks and share them among themselves. I am one of them and they are my people."

Our position then was very clear — we were on the side of the oppressed. From that point we began to develop a consciousness and a sensibility towards social realities. The Islamists started to participate in the trade union movement's activities and nowadays represent a very powerful force in this field.

The acceptance of Islam by the people, and more especially by the youth — to the extent that some mosques were sometimes gathering thousands of believers to attend classes — together with the success of the Iranian revolution and the enthusiasm that is aroused among the youth, all of this led to a revolutionary Islamic revival in Tunisia which was seen as a threat to the system. Consequently,

What were the accusations against the members of the movement?

The pretext for our arrest was that we were a clandestine organisation and that we had insulted the head of state. More than one hundred lawyers offered to defend us — some were members of the Islamic tendency, some belonging to other tendencies — ready to demonstrate the falsehood of such accusations. Our movement was not clandestine, the evidence being that we had presented a formal application to be legalised as any other party. The "proofs" presented by the public prosecutor were some copies of forged publications which were attributed

to us. The trials lasted for three years.

The government thought that the movement had been dismantled after every trial, but again and again new groups emerged which assumed the leadership of the movement. Three years after the first arrests the Tunisian government realised that the strength of the Islamic movement was increasing, its popularity growing day after day to the extent that any magazine or journal that wanted to sell all its copies had merely to publish an article about the Islamists.

In January 1984, the Tunisian government went through a major crisis. The "bread crisis" revealed the incompetence of the regime and its politics, and consequently the government was forced to grant the people some concessions. Thus we were released by the favour of Allah, the Merciful, and amnesty.

the Tunisian regime began to closely watch this new movement. The concern of the regime reached its peak when the movement applied for legal recognition as a political party. The government knows that our movement is very popular and has deep roots, and that if we ever participated in elections victory would be ours. On the other hand, every other party is under their control and it is well known that they do not represent a real danger.

All these circumstances inside and outside the country forced the government to suppress our movement on a wide scale. On the 17th of Ramadan 1401 (July 1981), all the known leaders of our group were arrested along with members, sympathisers or just suspects. We were all imprisoned and later on tried and given severe sentences of up to 18 years.

Could you brief us on the attitudes and the actions undertaken by the Bourguiba regime towards Islam?

It is very curious that during his revolutionary days, when he was fighting for independence from French colonialism, Bourguiba made use of the Quran and the hadith in his addresses and used to pronounce the khutba in mosques. In 1936 he wrote a book denouncing women who came out of their houses without hijab. However, in 1957, when in power, he prohibited the use of hijab and once theatrically uncovered a woman and tore her veil in public. Later on, in 1981, a law was passed that forbade women

employed in government offices or those entering the universities and colleges from wearing hijab.

Then, in 1959, he forbade polygamy. These civil laws are still in force. In 1960, Bourguiba prohibited fasting in Ramadan, alleging that it was harmful for the country's economy, and drank publicly as an invitation to all Tunisians to break their fast. In 1974, he stated that the Quran was self-contradictory and ridiculed the miracles of Prophet Musa (Moses).

Whereas it is true that before Bourguiba there had been other rulers who did not follow the Shariah or did not behave according to it, it is also certain that none had derided Islam or imposed on Muslims laws which were in opposition to Islam, even when they may not have been true believers in their inner selves. Nevertheless, Bourguiba has been active in fighting Islam and imposing in Tunisia all the values and ways of life of the materialistic western society.

When all these abuses were occurring against Islam, did not the ulema of Tunisia take a stand against the government?
Since the coming of so-called "independence," the authority of the ulema had been weakened. If an imam dared to speak against the government he was deposed from his office and his life made difficult.

When Bourguiba prohibited fasting during Ramadan, two ulema publicly opposed that prohibition—Sheikh Abdur Rahim al-Halif and Sheikh al-Wirtani. Both were condemned to thirty years in prison, although they were later pardoned.

In 1962, a group of ulema in conjunction with a faction of the army attempted a coup d'état against the regime. The plot was discovered and two of the ulema involved, Sheikh Ar-Rahmuni and Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Agabi, were executed.

We have spoken in length about the past, let us now face the future. How do you view the revival of Islam in North Africa, and more specifically in Tunisia?

The so-called liberation movements who appeared in the Maghreb to fight the colonisers have taken power and then

betrayed the people who had fought for Islam, and since then they have made more efforts to paralyse Islam than the colonialists themselves.

The westernised elites presently in power in our countries only represent a small minority imposed by the force of the state, the army and the mass media on a population of Muslim believers. They were educated by the colonisers and from them they inherited the power. The future elite which will govern Islamic Tunisia is the new generation which is now persecuted. They will re-establish Islam in this land, inshallah.

Tunisia's economy is based on income from tourism and on remittances from immigrants in France, two agents actively contributing to the moral degradation of the country and the progressive decay of the practice of Islam. Where would Tunisia's economy stand if the country lacked these two resources?

The wealth of a nation should be the fruit of the people's own effort. On the contrary, the man created by Bourguiba's regime is a man who waits for benefits to arrive from somewhere else, as is happening with tourism and immigration. The "Bourguibian man" is a consumerist who knows no seriousness. The basis of our country's economy will only change when Tunisian man views life as something transcendent, when he believes in the reward after death and in the value of his efforts in the way of Allah.

The economic development of a country is difficult and requires effort and continuous struggle. In the past, Tunisia was primarily an agricultural country, now agriculture contributes only about 15-18 per cent of the nation's GDP. Tunisia was called by the Romans the "barn of Europe," nowadays more than half of the food is imported. The French uprooted the olive trees and planted vines—today, Tunisia is a major wine producer. The country's economy has been built on an absolute dependence on Europe. Whenever there is an economic crisis in Europe it affects the Tunisian economy. This dependence is absurd, the natural links of interchange of services and commodities should be with the Islamic and Arab world and Africa.

IRAQ

COMMANDER OF BASRAH FRONT INTERVIEWED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Mar 84 pp 20-21

[Interview with Maj Gen Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid by 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Qaysi in Basrah: "Pre-emptive Attack Still On"; date not specified]

[Text] "We shall break their heads and thrash the wounded pig. We shall turn them back to the early days of the war, they running for safety and we pursuing them until they give in to peace."

With these utterances, Staff Maj Gen Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid, commander of the Third Army on the Basrah front, began his interview with AL-DUSTUR upon his arrival from Baghdad to the Basrah front after Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had awarded him the second class al-Rafidayn Medal, his second medal in addition to four orders of valor.

Maj Gen Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid has been nicknamed by western media as Commander "Muhammad al-Qasim" after the Muhammad al-Qasim forces he used to command. He is a shrewd field commander who has not lost any battles. The command of the Third Army Corps told AL-DUSTUR:

"Our present to you and to the Arabs is that we shall strike them with force. Consider this as a gift from us to you and to all the virtuous people of the world."

[Question] Will the pre-emptive attacks continue against the Iranians?

[Answer] They will, with God's help, until they give in to peace, and we shall surprise them.

[Question] Is there a danger threatening Basrah?

[Answer] The danger is a thing of the past. If the Iranians are dreaming, our potent force has shattered all their dreams and there will be no danger threatening Basrah or any other Iraqi area. This to them will remain confused dreams.

[Question] Is there any possibility of an Iranian attack being waged as the Iranians keep announcing?

[Answer] Everything in war is possible, particularly by these ignoramuses. We anticipate any possibility, but hope they will attack. We will be very happy to meet them. If they do not attack, we shall continue to hit them on the head and shall continue to teach them a lesson in respecting neighborliness and respecting Iraq and the Arabs. We are in a strong and capable position.

[Question] With regard to the Majnun oil field, have the Iraqis consolidated their control over it, particularly during the recent Iraqi attack under your command? And, have you achieved the security belt around Majnun?

[Answer] They have absolutely nothing in Majnun. They are in far-away hills in al-Hawr. This was achieved before our recent offensive. I assure you that the security aspect has been achieved and they cannot in any way control Majnun. We shall go on hammering at them until we get them in an ideal situation, which is the end of the war and the destruction of Iranian aggression, to make them surrender.

[Question] They are issuing statements, so do you have any comments on their statements?

[Answer] They talk too much and are very fond of words. Their statements and threats have become a strategy in their regime. Words are not like deeds. They have adopted the motto, "lie, lie until others believe you." We sometimes hear their statements and feel sorry for them because of their tragic situation. But sometimes we are too busy to hear them because they are not important to us and because their delirium has become a natural affair. When I personally hear them, I am greatly amused, especially when I am tired and need something to make me laugh. So I listen to what these miserable people have to say. As for Basrah at the Third Army Corps front, an attack by them is a chance of a lifetime for us. Instead of pursuing the hog to kill him, we can fire the coup de grace without the burden of a pushing into the depths [of Iran]. It is easier to strike at an attacking enemy than running after him to kill him and tear him to pieces. If they come to us, they are welcome. We guarantee to annihilate them. If they do not come, we shall go on pounding them on the head and will not let up until they submit to peace.

[Question] As a field commander who knows many details about the Iranians, how do you assess the current situation and what is the Iranians' military position?

[Answer] Their military position is known to the whole world. No matter what they do, they will not be able to do well. They have missed their chances and are no longer able to hurl in all these misguided people as they used to do. Khomeyni's contentiousness and that of his guard is over. Today, the Iranian army has no practical bases or reality. Anarchy is rampant in their forces and they are clearly fumbling about. Their situation is similar to the conditions inside Iran and "everything is just fine." Forgive me if I am reserved in my answers because I am a field commander and do not want to give them a chance, through my talk with you and do not want to go into detail. I say, however, that we are just fine under the command our leader Saddam Husayn. We prefer deeds to words and we have to offer something. As you can see, the recent intrepid action by our forces was an offensive action that pushed us to new positions. This is very clear.

[Question] The western media were surprised by the new Iraqi attacks that shifted from powerful defense to preemptive offense. What are your comments on this?

[Answer] Every step we take forward serves the military objective to some extent. So how about the well-considered and planned objectives that have purposes, some of which serve future action? The purpose is to end the war, something that can be accomplished in several ways and this is one of them.

[Question] Do you anticipate a near end of the war through the recent Iraqi attacks against the Iranians?

[Answer] The enemy is known for his haughtiness and aborting it is the way to end the war. We have to either paralyze it completely or change its facts. I do not want to anticipate because it is inappropriate to do so and, God willing, we shall accomplish this end through our arduous efforts. All the Arabs and all the free people of the world are on the side of right and Iraq is right and they are wrong. They want our country and we have been defending it for the last 5 years. I say, "Let their fury kill them for Iraq is a towering mountain unshaken by pale winds."

[Question] As an informed field commander, how do you assess the situation of the Iranian forces?

[Answer] They are in a desperate and despicable state of mind. They are hungry and do not even have enough clothes. Some wear summer clothing in the middle of winter and their reaction to our attacks is almost lame. Last year, we used to say we are ready. I do not exaggerate when I reiterate that we used to say that when they came we would wipe them out with fire, sticks and everything else. Now, however, we shall go on pounding on their heads until we turn them back into the way they used to be during the early days of the war and paralyze their assailing forces as a first step towards bringing the war to an end by legal or other means. In conclusion, I send my greetings to the Arabs. Our victory is a victory for all the Arabs because we are right.

12951
CSO: 4404/280

JORDAN

BRIEFS

SEISMIC SURVEY--Jordan is to undertake further seismic surveys over the next two years as part of a cooperation agreement with Iraq to find oil. Amman announced last year that oil in commercial-sized deposits had been located in the Al-Azraq area and that their exploitation would go ahead as quickly as possible. The Jordanian trade minister, Jawad al-Anani, said recently that two wells in an area near the Saudi Arabian border were producing up to 1,000 b/d, although he was reluctant to speculate on the size of their reserves. Another well has been reported as flowing at 2,000 b/d. The new exploration programme will be carried out by Iraqi experts in a 1,700-sq kilometre area around the Dead Sea. In the second stage of the programme, which is due to start early in 1986, exploration will be carried out in areas south and northeast of Amman. Jordan currently imports crude oil and products by road tanker from Iraq and the Tapline transports some 60,000 b/d of crude from Saudi Arabia for the Zarqa refinery. Tapline supplies will cease when Jordan is self-sufficient in oil. [Text] [Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 25 Mar 85 p 12]

CSO: 4400/136

KUWAIT

BRIEFS

TV 'NEWS POOL' ROLE--Kuwait, 30 Apr (KUNA)--The Kuwait television will start Wednesday to act as a news pool to prepare a news portfolio to be re-broadcast to the televisions of the other Gulf Cooperation Council member states. The arrangement was agreed on during a meeting last March for television officials from the six GCC countries and Kuwait has braced for the assignment with all technical facilities made available. The news portfolio will focus on information related to the development aspects in the regional body as well as high-level political contacts among member states. The Kuwaiti television, assuming this role for the second time, will carry out the new assignment for a one-year period. [Text] [Kuwait KUNA in English 1423 GMT 30 Apr 85 LD]

POPULATION INCREASE--The population of Kuwait has amounted to 1,695,128, according to preliminary results of the 1985 census, the Planning Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Statistics Affairs Misaad Hassan al-Umaim announced yesterday. He added that the males numbered 964,576 while the females totalled 730,552 and noted that Kuwaitis number at 679,601 including 337,243 males and 342,358 females while the non-Kuwaitis amounted to 1,015,527 of whom 627,333 are males and 388,194 are females. The increase in the population figure between the 1980 and 1985 amounted to 337,176 with a 24.8 percent increase, with males increasing by 187,937 and females 149,289, Umaim said. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 29 Apr 85 p 5 GF]

CSO: 4400/138

LEBANON

SUNNI LEADER DISCUSSES BEIRUT'S SITUATION

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 9 Mar 85 pp 62-63

/Interview with Tamam Salam by Ghasan Bayram in Beirut: "Lebanese Resistance Is National Non-Sectarian Action But Fear Is to Be Exploited On Sectarian Basis"; date not specified/

/Text/ What after the Israeli withdrawal from Sidon? Will the capital of the south enjoy peace and tranquility? Will the government experience there turn into the beginning of a true peace in Beirut and all of Lebanon? And, what similarities are there between the situation in Beirut and Sidon?

These are among the questions being raised today in the Lebanese political street.

Mr Tamam Salam, head of the Islamic Charitable Maqasid Society has emerged as a leader who must be interviewed, not to seek opinions about what has happened and what may happen, but rather to see how the wind, which is still raging in Lebanese political life with all its sectarian and national elements, is blowing.

/Question/ Do the circumstances that led to the Israeli withdrawal from Sidon and its environs suggest that the general situation may undergo a development on the Lebanese and regional levels and may explain the great international interest in this step?

/Answer/ It is clear that this question has a regional and external dimension concerning the events with which we have had to deal during this period, namely, the liberational accomplishment of forcing an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

I cannot move on to this regional and external dimension without focusing on the tangible approach of this event represented in the pressure of a pure, honest, and spontaneous resistance by a live

people who reject any kind of suppression, humiliation, hegemony or occupation. The Lebanese national resistance has been able to bring great and effective pressure to bear on the occupying Israeli army. This has been coupled with the internal political and economic pressures being endured by Israeli society and, consequently, with a pressuring international situation and international movements that, to a large extent, contributed to the forced Israeli pullout. However, all of this does not detract from the great qualitative accomplishment of the Lebanese national resistance. Hence, my personal assessment is that the pullout, to which the Israeli government refers as a part of a specific plan, may go beyond this plan and turn into a snowball. The stronger and more violent the national resistance gets, the more intense the Israeli army's fear and confusion will be and, consequently, the faster its pullout will be.

We believe today that the Israeli enemy is trying to put forth some suppositions and incidents to lighten the impact of its defeat. At times, it talks about massacres, clashes and breakdowns to follow the withdrawal, and, at other times, it talks about a confrontation with new Shi'ite forces, being fully aware that such a classification has dimensions through which it is trying to instigate certain internal axes in Lebanon.

Question It seemed clear from the outset that the Israeli concentration on the Shi'ite resistance story was aimed at arousing certain sensitivities on the Lebanese and, perhaps, regional level?

Answer On the one hand, the Israelis are trying to arouse confessional sensitivities and pride and, on the other hand, they are trying to find excuses for the benefit of internal public opinion. The fact is, however, that the resistance is national, not Shi'ite nor Sunni and not even Christian. Furthermore, if we are to move on to the regional and external dimensions of this event, we must say right at the outset that there is a close connection between the Lebanese problem and the Middle East question. It is clear that Israel is in a totally new situation that has to have a great impact on its future fantasies and aspirations in its dealings with its own environment, its own people and its future plans.

Question Don't you think there is a dialectical relationship between what is happening or what could happen in Beirut and the south?

Answer Talk about the Beirut quagmire cannot be done without reviewing and citing as an example 10 years of events and developments. Beirut, first and foremost, is the capital and anything beyond it is fringes. Consequently, Beirut is the center of the political decision and, therefore, any event in it assumes forms and dimensions that are

totally different from anything that happens in its surroundings. This does not mean, however, that we can overstep this Beirut quagmire to achieve victories. This is impossible.

Of course, there are exceptions, the most prominent of which is that the suffering in Sidon and the south is clearly outlined: it is with a known enemy. But, it is different in Beirut. For to the same extent that one is able to foretell the positive aspects of the future of the liberated areas and their interactions with the general situation through these aspects, one may be frightened by some negative aspects that may come to pass in these liberated areas, specifically in Sidon in view of its being a large city, for fear that the tactics of manipulation, parvenu and opportunism may spread from Beirut to Sidon. Moreover, it is neither unusual nor farfetched that the plans and practices of the official agencies spread from Beirut to Sidon just as the evil hands of the avaricious, the malevolent, the biased, the manipulators and the exploiters may extend to this area.

/Question/ Then this single semi-collective assault by almost all the groups in support of the legal security authorities in Sidon and in unity in the face of attempts at promoting division and discord is a kind of a preventive action to spare Sidon the present pains of Beirut?

/Answer/ That is correct, provided that these authorities know how to behave this time in the southern areas. But if they fall into the same malicious acts in which they engaged in Beirut, I bid good-bye to all these future hopes we have for Sidon and the south. Yesterday, I heard a Sidon inhabitant, Dr Ghassan Hammud, who has suffered from Israeli mistreatment, say on TV that for the first time in history, tradition and principles have been reversed in Sidon, its environs and the south in general. Usually, it is the armies that take upon themselves the process of liberation and then hand over the power to the civilians. But today and contrary to the norm, the civilian authorities were the ones who led the process of liberation and turned over to the military authority, namely the army, the matter of preserving this liberational accomplishment. This is a delicate, critical and crucial operation.

/Question/ You are aware of the givens of the prevailing situation in Beirut as you are aware of the givens of the present situation in Sidon which is going through a new experience...

/Answer/ /interrupting/ We hope that the government has learned its lesson from Beirut to correct its mistakes in dealing with the situation in Sidon. We must not forget that this particular government, which made a faux pas in Beirut 2 years ago, has since then become a group of governments; it is a fragmented government. Hence, the situation today

is more difficult than 2 years ago when the government erred, thus missing and causing us and Lebanon to miss the opportunity.

Question Nonetheless, in your estimation, who is infecting the other, Beirut or Sidon?

Answer The fear is to communicate the disease from Beirut to Sidon. Beirut is the source of political parties, quagmires, and festive liberation. Beirut is the seat of corruption, intelligence and various services. Beirut is the source of contamination and pollution. Yes, this is the danger and this is what we fear will be communicated to Sidon and the south.

Question Is it not possible that the opposite may happen in that, should the experience of coexistence and government law and order be successful in Sidon, it can be communicated to Beirut?

Answer Unfortunately, this will not happen for Sidon and its environs have a clean and pure background emanating from suffering and from a phase in which the people learned much and paid dearly in blood, lives and possessions.

But for Sidon and its experience to be a positive approach for rectifying the situation in Beirut, this is quite possible and what we hope for. There is a liberational accomplishment in Sidon which we hope will be an incentive that will cause all those who are wrapped up in Beirut and its surroundings to awaken and learn a lesson from the south and its people and to halt all their negative and wrong practices.

Question Besides that, don't you think that keeping the Sidon and the south situation under control is done under an international and regional umbrella, in the sense that if there is some sign of a solution, the infection will be automatically communicated from Sidon to Beirut and, if what is underway right now in Sidon is an approach to a new problem, the opposite will be true?

Answer Things are thorny and not well sorted out. There are many considerations and superimpositions that have a decisive influence on the shaping of this future. It is important to mention here that, in the same measure as the government's journey represented by the president and the prime minister, to Sidon was ceremonial, the reaction will be negative if the state and the government did not establish their presence on various security, economic, and social levels in Sidon and the south.

Question Since your father, Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, announced his recent stand on rejecting the prevailing reality in Beirut on the governmental level and decided to withdraw his vote of confidence from

the rulers, attention has shifted to his son, you, and his initiatives on the grass-roots level. In what realm does your initiative revolve and are Sa'ib Salam's threats against his executive too in the hands of his son, Tamam?

/Answer/ Based on my suffering and daily pursuit, I would like to say frankly that we are at our worst today. There is serious fragmentation in the people's ranks. This fragmentation has sectarian and class as well as denominational dimensions. There are also the reckless practices against the people, by those who have declared themselves phased leaders, that are making things worse. There are forces emerging every day, planning for and seeking destruction, ruin and disruption of the social and popular situation. Dealing with this shattered reality is very difficult. Consequently, I and people like me are working day and night to mend the rift and bring people together, especially in confronting the process of sectarian and denominational classification. For so often we find ourselves speaking a language some people do not understand and adopting strange stances alien to the painful and harsh denominational concepts and ideas. The only language through which one can talk and move is the language of denomination and this is an unfortunate and frightening matter in view of its unhealthy consequences, negativisms and practices. This reality grows more serious day by day and, in my estimation, is a harbinger of great danger that lies not only in a military confrontation or a violent clash, which will never happen, but also in deepening the wounds, divisions and differences, thus placing us in a very difficult position with respect to the future. The painful thing is that the negative elements have been on the increase and have dominated the situation and have become the majority that controls people's views and tendencies, while the positive elements are almost nil. I believe that the practices of the government and its dismembered legitimacy has much to do with substantiating this reality in which we are living. If we wanted to be judged, even partly, by the recent appointments, how can the people be expected to hope for a bright future or impending salvation?

/Question/ Your words do not encourage any notion that we are on the threshold of a rescue operation for the Lebanese situation.

/Answer/ What rescue! Politics in Lebanon in particular, unlike the other countries of the world, is the bread and butter of the people due to the heavy burdens that have been laid on them throughout the years, as it is also one of the causes of their current tragedy. Moreover, the survival and flourishing of countries depends on money and economics. Here, the matter does not warrant more than 20 percent of the officials and rulers' attention, and even this rate is sometimes moved by political backdrops and dubious deals. You ask me about rescue? Where are we today, where is the hope, where are the future aspirations when the economic situation is going from bad to worse?

/Question/ One last question, which is not meant to be provocative, about the rumors that talk of strife between the Sunni and the Shi'ite Muslims?

/Answer/ In this regard, the liberation accomplishments in the Lebanese occupied territory have to be an important gate to victory over everything for the sake of fusing the forces and reuniting the people of one nation. So how about the people of one religion and one sect and, consequently, the integration of opinions and one Islamic position.

Of course this does not mean that there are no practices and provocations committed daily that generate certain reservations and precautions by the Sunni and Shi'ite groups and in so doing create estranged positions that may lead to collisions.

There is no doubt that, with regard to the prevailing conditions in Lebanon and the regional milieu, our Shi'ite brothers have a responsibility to be more perceptive and more aware of many of the practices and actions that are detrimental to the broad Islamic base. I say this in particular because I am fully aware of the reality that is imposing itself today on the capital. Beirut, which is, as I have already said, a huge quagmire where most matters are hatched and contrived, where most rostrums are set up and where most positions are shaped. I say honestly and sincerely that, in this delicate phase, our brother Shi'ites are asked to be alert and attentive because they hold many reins today and are in a position to foil and frustrate many political plots and designs and sectarian intrigues.

12951
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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

KUWAITI WEEKLY INTERVIEWS FORMER FATAH MEMBER

GF281630 London AL-MAJALIS in Arabic 27 Apr 85 pp 27-29

[Interview with Abu Dawud, PNC member and former Fatah Central Committee member, by Shakir al-Jawhari--date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Shakir al-Jawhari] What is your opinion on the current coordination between the PLO and Jordan?

[Abu Dawud] I believe that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is a must but it should not be like that in the current form. I believe that coordination between Jordanians and Palestinians should concentrate on laying down the basis for continued armed struggle and fighting for the liberation of Palestinian territory. As for any political coordination, I think it is a waste of time for both sides and leads to more concessions which only lead to the loss of land and will threaten other Arab territories.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you think that the formation of the new [Jordanian] Government under Zayd al-Rifa'i is a trend toward coordination with Syria at the expense of the PLO? Do you believe it is possible that Jordan and Syria will participate in a political settlement with Israel in which the PLO will be excluded?

[Abu Dawud] It is known that Zayd al-Rifa'i supports rapprochement with Syria. I believe that this rapprochement will take place. However, I do not see any indicators that Syria and Jordan will participate in a settlement. If they do, we must think of how we should continue armed struggle, regardless of a Jordanian-Palestinian or Palestinian-Jordanian-Syrian concord for any future settlement because, in my opinion, any settlement is a waste of our rights and a relinquishment of our national and pan-Arab gains.

[Al-Jawhari] Abu Dawud, who is always a rejectionist and an opponent, why have you not dissented against Fatah despite the many dissensions in it?

[Abu Dawud] The truth is that dissensions against Fatah please its leadership who intends to steer the Palestinian struggle in the way it wants, because every time a dissident or an opposition is declared, it will be attributed to this side or that side, and consequently, this makes any

dissident movement lose its credibility among the Palestinian masses. I want to continue to fight from inside Fatah with all my power in order to block the defeatist programs because this is better than to dissent or be part of a dissension. Take the recent dissension for example. It was attributed to Syria--whether this is true or untrue. What followed is that every word from them was attributed to Syria. Other colleagues dissented with minor ineffective groups on the Palestinian arena. In my view, it is better for me to remain in the ranks and say this is wrong. I may be heard now with 10 percent but I may be heard after a few months with 60 percent and then with 70 percent. This is better than breaking away and shouting from outside.

[Al-Jawhari] Are you still suspended from action as a result of these circumstances?

[Abu Dawud] Yes. I do not hold any position at present except that I am a PNC member. I do not aspire to occupy any other position in Fatah because they know that any position given to me will be taken for the opposition and not for the current political trend.

[Al-Jawhari] Until when?

[Abu Dawud] We will continue to struggle until circumstances improve.

CSO: 4400/138

SAUDI ARABIA

DOMESTIC WEAPONS PRODUCTION EXAMINED

Kuwait AL-'ARABI in Arabic Apr 84 pp 36-45

/Text/ AL-'ARABI entered the weapons production factories in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This is the second contact AL-'ARABI has had with Arab weapons. The first was in the Egyptian state. In this investigative report we present a new picture of our determined efforts to achieve defense of our Arab land and our sovereignty. We pondered how weapons production in Saudi Arabia was spawned and how it developed. Since the dawn of history man has experienced a need for the means to defend himself against his enemies and speed his mobility in the field when battle has erupted from time to time. Today's weapons are not yesterday's weapons, and tomorrow's weapons are not today's weapons. They have been in a constant state of advancement that has not slowed from the ancient history of war to modern times. The Persians who invaded Greece in 480 B.C. were armed with arrows with tips of flint, wood spears and catapults. At that time they knew about bronze spears and bronze swords and armor. Then Macedonian tribes formed infantries armed with javelins. The ancient Greeks knew chemical warfare, which included "Greek fire"--originally a Phoenician invention. The advancement of weapons did not stop at this, but developed with time as man's ambitions to invent all kinds of new weapons intensified.

Then gunpowder was invented and a revolution in the world of armaments was triggered. The Dutch used field artillery in the 14th century A.D. This was transferred to the Ottomans and Africans. "Gustavus" worked to increase the velocity of canons and made them an extemely important weapon. Then projectiles loaded with explosives were invented and in the middle of the 16th century small rifles appeared with a range of 400 yards. The human mind was still not satisfied with all the means of death and destruction that it had invented and continued to search for new means. The airplane and missiles followed tanks and machineguns.

Canons in the context of the arms industry are the focal point of this investigation.

Secret Measures

All of the steps of this industry are surrounded with secrecy, whether inside the factory between the different machining processes and equipment or outside the factory. This is so that the production methods and all their details are protected. If the details of this industry were not protected and kept secret from one country to the next, then all countries would know these details and there would be no secrets in this industry. We might ask what the reasons are for this effort to keep weapons manufacturing secret. The answer is that the security of the superpowers depends on this secrecy. The weapons manufacturing processes of one country must not fall into the hands of the other countries, lest the stature of that state and the power of its weapons be lost.

Arab Weapons

This kind of production is new to our Arab nation due to our limited technical capabilities, the secrecy of these manufacturing processes, and the shortage of Arab workers who are able to manufacture Arab weapons in Arab factories. In addition, the necessary raw materials are rare. Faced with this, the Arab nation extends its hand to foreign arms markets. Sometimes this hand returns with nothing and sometimes material and technical conditions are placed before weapons are given. This is what the Arab nation has suffered in foreign arms markets, and it is a suffering that has compelled the Arabs to adopt the principle of self reliance in weapons availability, so that production will be on Arab land, with Arab hands and with Arab money. This will diminish the dependence on foreign weapons, whose merchants dictate the fate of the Arab world.

Fear of Weapons

This industry, however, is still new on Arab territory. The road to weapons manufacture is long. The passage of time will reveal to us all of the secrets of this industry, and the states of our Arab nation must pursue it with determination and resolve so that our arms will strike fear in the enemies in compliance with the word of God, "Prepare for them as much as you are able with power and the reins of horses, for with these you will frighten God's enemies and your enemies." Preparation in this area is a must as the Holy Koran advises us. When we are firmly prepared, the fear of the enemies will be great.

Industry in Infancy

Were we to seek the locations of these factories in the states of the Arab nation, we would discover that few Arab states have established

arms factories. Where they are found, they are still in their early stages. Therefore, the armaments of the Arab nation still fall in the category of goods imported from abroad. These imports greedily sap money from the Arab treasury. The states on the map of the Arab nation with an arms industry are the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The latter is the topic of this investigation. There is some light weapons manufacturing in other Arab states, but the presence of these industries does not represent any self sufficiency for the Arab armies.

First Magazine

Perhaps the status of this magazine in the journalism field was behind the permission granted it to enter the armaments factories in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I still remember the words of one of the Saudis accompanying us when he turned toward me and said, "You are the first magazine in the world that has entered our arms factories."

I said, "This is an honor to the magazine AL-'ARABI and a mark of distinction that it will wear on its chest among the other magazines and newspapers of the world." I then followed his discussion, "These factories have a special function and, therefore, a caution is in order about discussing what you see or taking pictures. This is the case for all industries that have a military or economic impact in any country. A point comes to mind concerning this customary desire in the arms industry. The point is that some believe that shedding light on the industry and the military equipment that the factories produce serves to frighten and warn the enemy. Others, however, believe that the facts of this industry rightfully belong at the forefront of the state's secrets in order to protect the security and sovereignty of the state. Both of these views are correct." However, how does this industry proceed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia? The arms factories there are located in a city 60 kms from the capital, Riyadh. We had to wind our way along this road from Riyadh every morning to get to this city, which is the center of the arms industry in the Kingdom, to experience the daily life inside the workshops of these factories.

Industry of Manhood and War

At the door, a military security officer stopped us to ask about the nature of the visit and the reasons for entry. Our military companion quickly responded and indicated the magazine that we represented. Surprise and astonishment overtook the security officer, and he said to us, "You, then, are from the press?" We said, "Yes," and he replied laughing, "But the press has never entered these factories." A fraternal conversation between us and the security man continued and he finally said, "May God grant you long life. You are welcome

here." We made our way to the inside where we were met by a military lieutenant from the public relations office of the arms factories. We followed him to the office of Major General Yusuf al-Salum, the director of the factories. We entered his office and he gave a warm welcome to us and to AL-'ARABI, which he held in great regard. He went on to say, "The weapons industry is an industry of manhood and war. It is a manifestation of respect for strength. It is a building of the army which defends nations and homes. Above all else it is associated with the sacred duties of Islam and a fulfillment of the Islamic call to equip oneself to strike fear in the enemies." The director of the arms factories continued, "Normally, the industry requires human hands that can control the machines inside the workshops. It also requires good communications and the availability of water in addition to the raw materials that we obtain inside and outside the Kingdom. The discovery of minerals in the Kingdom will free us in the future from having to import. In addition to all of this, money is required to operate the factories. All of these necessities are available to us, praise be to God."

When did the arms industry begin in the Kingdom? Major General Yusuf al'Salum answered:

Beginning with Ammunition

"It began toward the end of the era of the late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, may God bless him, in about 1951, when he signed the first agreement for war production with one of the foreign countries. This agreement was part of an aid arrangement, but the provisions of this agreement have now ended, and production has been transferred into the hands of sons of the Kingdom. This industry has become Saudi in every aspect, from the technical workforce to the managerial workforce, etc."

Major General al-Salum continues, "At first production was limited to ammunition, then it included small arms that are used around facilities, health services buildings, recreation centers, housing and the other necessities of the army. This industry is not new to us as Muslims since Muslims were the first to manufacture swords and arrows and all of the weapons that they used in their conquests." The director of the arms factories goes on to say, "The arms industry is constantly evolving. It does not stop at a certain point. Any modern weapon that appears in the hands of the enemies requires that we consider manufacturing a weapon that will confront the enemy's weapon and surpass it in terms of the force of its impact and its performance."

Training Center

The discussion with Major General Yusuf al-Salum, the director of the arms factories, stopped so that we could begin our tour through the

various workshops that make up the factories. We began in the training center where young Saudis are trained and qualified to play their role alongside the weapons manufacturing machinery. The center, as we were informed by the person in charge, accepts only Saudi students and the period of study is 2 years. Our interlocutor added that the center opened in 1974 and that the students receive a monthly stipend. Study is both theoretical and practical in machining and mechanics. After the period of study is completed, the student joins one of the factories' workshops to take his position alongside his colleagues inside the factories.

Spare Parts

No weapon is of use without the availability of spare parts for it. One of the priorities of the arms factory when manufacturing a weapon is to set up factories for spare parts for that weapon. This is the case with the weapons factories in Saudi Arabia where an independent factory exists for spare weapons parts. The delegation from AL-'ARABI visited this factory, which was established in 1976. We spoke to the supervisor about the nature of the factory. He said, "The spare parts factory produces parts required by weapons. Its production keeps pace with our progress in arms. The factory only employs young Saudis and, therefore, all of the people that run the machinery are sons of the Kingdom."

Machineguns, Rifles

Then we visited the rifle factory that is known for its production of the G-3 rifle. We walked among the noisy machinery with the man who was in charge. He described the factory as one of the most important production factories since it produces weapons such as the common rifle, the automatic rifle and machineguns. All of the workers in the factory are sons of the Kingdom who felt the need to serve their country in this aspect of industry.

We continued our tour through the arms factories and visited the aircraft ammunition (20 mm) factory. This factory specializes in the production of rockets and other projectiles needed by aircraft. It is supplied with the most modern and advanced machinery in this industry. The Saudi arms industries include a central laboratory for testing all raw materials that are used in the arms industry as well as all the lubricants and chemicals that are involved in this industry.

2,500 Meals

These factories require a large trained workforce. The arms factories in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that we are presenting to the reader in this issue employ 2,500 Saudi citizens, including laborers and

military administrators and technicians, who work starting at 6:30 every morning. They all take up their posts at work until 2:00 in the afternoon. These hours are broken up by a prayer break and lunch which the factories provide in their cafeterias free of charge to all of the employees. In addition, there is a housing project for the factory workers that will be completed early next year.

New Manufacturing

We met with Colonel Muhammad al-Faysal, the deputy director of the arms factories and asked him about the stage of development of the factories. He said, "This stage began in 1982. Our concern in implementing this stage was to provide a Saudi workforce. This development phase also included the introduction of new manufacturing that would keep up with developments in the weapons industry. With the help of God we were able to reach this execellent state that our factories are in, whether in terms of production or in terms of providing a native workforce that manages the various functions of the factories. We have other plans and studies to continue this development."

Standards and Controls

We spent a number of days touring the equipment at the arms factories in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and our tours lasted from morning to evening. It was also our pleasure to deal with all aspects of daily activity inside these factories, especially the finer aspects. However, there are "standards" and controls that are classified under what are called military secrets, and we prefer not to shed light on these details because they are our secrets as an Arab nation that seeks military action and preparedness. Here the words of Sayyid al-Khalq--may God bless him-- are appropriate, "Seek to fulfill your needs in secrecy." Secrecy is required here. What we have presented are the aspects that can be presented.

Dear reader, this is a glimpse of certain aspects of the weapons industry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They are aspects that I can write about. There are other aspects that fall in the category of things that are known but cannot be spoken of or written about.

12951
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SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

IRAQI IMPORTS FINANCED--Jeddah, 7 May (SPA)--An agreement was signed at the headquarters of the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah today, whereby the bank will finance the import of \$15 million worth of palm oil from Malaysia for the general establishment of vegetable oils in the Republic of Iraq. The agreement was signed by Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, the bank's governor, and 'Abd al-Malik Ahmad al-Yasin, the Iraqi ambassador to Saudi Arabia. The financing of Iraq by the Islamic Development Bank since the beginning of 1405 Hegira [September 1984] totals \$56 million. [Text] [Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1055 GMT 7 May 85 GF]

CSO: 4400/158

24 May 1985

AFGHANISTAN

BIG SOVIET SWEEP ON REBEL AREAS NEAR KABUL REPORTED

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRaits TIMES in English 3 Apr 85 p 15

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Tues. — A large Soviet armoured force backed by fighter jets and helicopter gunships has swept an area northeast of the Afghan capital Kabul, Western diplomats said today.

The force, estimated at several hundred tanks, trucks and armoured vehicles, was apparently trying to clear the Koh-i-Safi area last month of fighters defending supply routes towards the strategic Panjsher valley, 160 km (100 miles) north of Kabul, the diplomats said.

Panjsher resistance commander Ahmad Shah Masood said his men bombed another large Soviet convoy on March 23, killing more than 400 Soviet and Afghan soldiers, but the diplomats had no information on the attack.

Resistance sources in Peshawar, quoting a traveller just returned from the Salang Pass area near the mouth of the Panjsher, said the burned wrecks of about 85 tanks and other vehicles lay along the main highway connecting Kabul to the Soviet Union.

The traveller, the first eyewitness to arrive in Peshawar since the attack, said many trees along the highway were

burned and the road was stained with blood.

Bulldozers were clearing the wreckage when the traveller visited the area last Friday and villagers said a few hundred people were killed in a mujahid rocket attack on the convoy.

The diplomats said Mr Masood, whose Panjsher valley stronghold was partially conquered during last spring's Soviet offensive, sent some of his men to Koh-i-Safi to reinforce local fighters against the Soviet sweep.

The official Afghan media reported spectacular seizures of resistance arms near Koh-i-Safi, an area 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Kabul.

According to the diplomats, rumours were circulating in Kabul that Mr Masood was negotiating with the Soviet forces for a truce similar to the one they agreed on in 1983.

The diplomats reported continued heavy fighting in the southeastern cities of Ghazni and Kandahar. More than two dozen Afghan and several Soviet soldiers were reportedly killed in a combined army and police sweep through the Logar valley south of Kabul last month.

CSO: 4600/416

AFGHANISTAN

IRAN ACCUSED OF INTERVENING AGAINST DRA

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 14 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

KABUL, (BIA) —
A political observer of Bakhtar writes:

The reactionary circles of Iran are trying these days to bring the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands in Iran under their direct control and to use them in the implementation of their own hostile policy against the DRA.

The reports from Tehran on the knocking up of a so-called alliance of the four counter-revolutionary bands testify to this fact.

These four counter-revolutionary bands are the Nasr group, the so-called pasdarane Jahade Islami grouping Nohzat-e-Islami Engelabi and Jabbae Motahede Engelab-e-Islami all of whom are stationed in Iran.

The leaders of Iran using these counter-revolutionary bands strive to hamper revolutionary transformations in the country.

They want to put Afghanistan under pressure to export their own way of life and the ideas of the

so-called Islamic revolution into Afghanistan.

Recently, the Iran's attempts to intervene into the internal affairs of the DRA have acquired broader dimensions. There is ample evidence at hand about these interventions.

The reactionary obscurantist ruling circles of Iran have been incessantly increasing their open interventions into the internal affairs of Afghanistan through the creation of military camps, organizing the counter-revolutionary bands, giving them military training and coordinating their subversive activities against Afghanistan.

For example, the armed aggression by Iranian forces against the border region of Sarsari in Herat Province on December 19, 1984, the aggressions of frontier forces of Iran in Trakhwai area in the charborjak district of Nimroz province, unauthorised flight of a Boeing 707 of Iranian Airlines over the territ-

try of Afghanistan," the export of the Iranian spies such as Mohammad Karezi, Shahrab, Sharif and others to the DRA are undeniable testimonies to the shameless interventions of Iranian authorities in the internal affairs of the country.

One can see from the attitude adopted by the Iranian authorities towards the Afghans residing in Iran that applying diverse pressures on emigre Afghans they seek to exploit them for achieving their own ominous purposes.

The Iranian regime has recently enacted the so-called labour law in Iran under which no emigre Afghan can find a decent job there.

The proprietors of the companies have orders from the Ministry of Interior to refrain from recruiting the Afghans and in any case not to give them a decent job.

The Afghan fugitives can not find a job in Tehran. They can rarely find the most menial jobs

in the other cities with lowest wages. The Iranians treat the Afghan fugitives as second rate persons and trample upon their human dignity.

The reactionary government of Iran, is now functioning after Pakistan as one of the major executors of the undeclared war against the DRA.

The Government of Iran has so far rejected all the proposals of the state of Afghanistan which reflected the goodwill of the DRA. This shows that the position taken by Iran is even more hostile than adopted by the military regime of Pakistan against the DRA.

While the sinister interventions of the Iranian circles was denounced recently by the High Council of the Religious Scholars and clergy of the DRA, the people of Afghanistan as a whole also severely condemn the interventions of the Iranian circles into the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

CSO: 4600/428

AFGHANISTAN

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE TO HELMAND INCREASING

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 14 Apr 85 p 2

[Text] Ninety per cent of inhabitants of Helmand Province are engaged in agriculture and live-stock-breeding. Bughrah and Darwishan canals and local Karezes (subterranean water channels), of the province irrigate 85,000 hectares of land.

Stating the above in an interview, a spokesman of irrigation department of the Helmand province, added: "Cereals, cotton and fruits constitute the main agricultural products of the province. Peasants of this province harvested 130,000 tons of cereals such as wheat, beans and pulses during the harvesting campaign of last year. Similarly, 20,000 tons of cotton were harvested during last year."

Explaining the assistance of the party and the state, the spokesman said: "During the last year,

3,917 tons of chemical fertilizers and 1,945 tons of cotton seeds were given to the cotton-growers on easy terms.

"Likewise the peasants received fertilizers, improved seeds and agricultural implements worth around 16 million Afghanis through the Agricultural Development Bank."

The spokesman added: "To improve irrigation in the province, over 100 cubic metres of streams, subterranean water channels and canals were cleaned during the last Afghan year."

Deliberating on the implementation of democratic land reforms in the province, the source said: "The process of land reforms is continuing in the Helmand province, and the contribution of the province's peasants

in this process is worth appreciating.

"Three operational groups of the land reforms distributed last year 3,477 land ownership documents to the landless peasants and petty land holders.

"Furthermore 14 agricultural cooperatives having over 3,000 members and the capital of around Afs. 2.6 million are functioning on an area of 7538 hectares of land".

The spokesman said: "A large number of cooperative members have voluntarily joined the party organisations, trade unions and literacy courses. They solve their problems through the Peasants' Councils and Peasants Committees. Four Peasants' Councils and five Peasants' Committees are active in Helmand province."

CSO: 4600/428

AFGHANISTAN

EDUCATION FOR ALL RECEIVES PRIORITY

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 7 Apr 85 pp 1-2

[Text]

KABUL, (BIA) —

A periodical session of the Politburo of the PDPA CC, was held recently under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the CC of the PDPA and President of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA at the headquarters of the PDPA CC. The meeting discussed a series of important and vital issues and adopted necessary decisions on them.

One of these important issues was the present state of education in the DRA and measures for its future development.

Dwelling on various aspects of the state of affairs in the sphere of education in the DRA, Babrak Karmal said: "We have achieved considerable successes in the context of ensuring a sound education of the sons of the country after the revolution. The educational system has been relieved of its old and medieval form and content. The implementation of a new educational system is continuing in the

country. A universal movement for admitting the children of working people as also ensuring extra-mural education for children has been launched. Contrary to the reactionary policy of past exploiter classes towards education under which little attention was paid to drawing thousands of children who were out of the orbit of education, to schools, today, the party and state have taken it up as a priority task in the field of education.

"Unlike in the past, today the school going students are not taught general, non-specific subjects, having no practical use value in their daily life and their future. Now the process of harmonizing education with the economic and political life of the country is ever-increasingly deepening. School education is now being geared to synchronize with the objectives of a cultural revolution in the country. We should point out that before the revolution the tyrannical and exploiter

classes manifested in their official policies hostility towards the education of the country's children. Today they also manifest the same satanic rancour through their subversive and terroristic acts. For instance, hundreds of patriotic teachers were killed and several hundreds of schools destroyed due to the bestial enmity and rancour of wild counter-revolution.

"After the revolution the education of children of different nationalities of the country is being further and better ensured in our country. This is being done in accordance with the principled and humane policy of the PDPA and the state of the DRA. Today the network of schools where education is being imparted in the languages of national minorities is expanding.

"For the first time in the country, teaching in the languages of fraternal nationalities started, and purposeful and fruitful work in continuing towards this end."

Babruk Karim added: "Successes gained in the field of education under the present conditions, when the undeclared war against the DRA is still continuing, are considered as the first foundations of new education. Serious shortcomings still existing in the context of further development of the education, must be removed.

We must seriously, consciously and purposefully

ensure a change in the composition of students in the interest of the children of working people. The Ministry of Education has still not been able to carry out successfully the work related to the attraction of all children of workers, peasants, artisans and other working people to schools, while this is a major and significant task. Still there are children who remain out of schools and in an unsound environment. Extensive work for bringing all children of school going age in the sphere of education must be conducted and even a single child eligible for enrolment to schools must not remain deprived of a sound education.

"Attention of the Ministry of Education is drawn to conducting satisfactory work for preparing teaching personnel capable of meeting the present-day educational needs. At present, serious deficiencies exist in the training of teachers for social sciences and for military-patriotic training of school students.

"More attention should be paid to the enhancement of the role and significance of a teacher in the life of children and youth of the country as instructor and mentor. The prestige of the teacher must be raised. The Ministry of Education is obligated to pay serious attention to the material and cultural life of all teachers, particularly those who are working in remote areas of the country.

"Our patriotic and hon-

durable teachers are in fact the builders of the luminous future of the country, for they shoulder the responsibility of ensuring sound upbringing of the homeland's children. We should promote our popular teachers to a position which they never had and could not have in the reign of the past despotic and reactionary regimes.

"The spirit of respect to the teacher should take deep root in the mind of every individual student and the society as a whole. No one, in whatever position he may be, has the right to display any disrespect towards our conscious and patriotic teachers".

Babrak Karmal added: "We must further accelerate political, educational and ideological work among the teachers and students, and decisively forestall the negative influence of counter-revolution in the schools. We must not let the youth to become ensnared because of their sentimentalism and lack of consciousness, in the dangerous traps of counter-revolution.

All party committees and youth organisations, particularly the patriotic and noble teachers of the country ought to fulfil their noble and humane mission in this regard.

"One should not be content with only teaching within the premises of schools, while educating youth and children of the homeland, but link this work with the dynamic life in the country and with the international situation. The youth should be trained in such a way that they themselves may study and analyse the

foundations of new knowledge, and become active participants of the struggle for the cause of peace and social progress and against reaction and imperialism.

The counter-revolution wants to introduce among the school-students the Western way of life and the way of thinking of the exploiters overthrown by the revolution. They seek to subvert the new educational system and new curriculum, and to threaten the members of the party, social organisations and other patriotic youth.

Party committees and social organisations should change the schools into an area of active and fruitful political-ideological work, free the students from the ideological influence of counter-revolution, and mobilize them to become an active force in the struggle against the counter-revolution. The compilation and translation of text-books in the mother tongues of national minorities which continues at a slow pace, should be speeded up and expanded. Drawbacks in the work related to the training of the local teachers, particularly in respect of the national minorities must be removed. The issue of teaching in the mother tongue in primary schools must be solved. Teaching in mother tongues should be expanded gradually and at an accelerated pace.

"The work in the sphere of training of teachers, implementation of fruitful and useful teaching plans and exercising serious and precise control on fulfilment of such plans is weak. More attention

should be paid to suburban and rural areas to look after the condition of schools and students in the remote areas of the country. Weak points in the supply of textbooks and other teaching materials should be removed. Persistent and practical struggle should be started against all shortcomings. We must display sympathy and a sense of responsibility towards the destiny of innocent children and the brave youth of the country, the builders of the prosperous society of tomorrow. They should be given sound education. They should be trained in the spirit of love to the homeland and the people and knowledge and hatred against counter-revolution and imperialism. It is because the creation of a powerful national economy and further and all-sided growth of production is not possible

with an unskilled, illiterate and ignorant manpower".

Babruk Karmal said: "Historical destiny of all popular revolutions is like this. One or several generations sacrifice themselves so that future generations would be happy and prosperous, and the homeland become developed and blossoming. The destiny of our revolution is also the same. Whatever we do is for ensuring that the future children of the homeland would not suffer from poverty and unhappiness any longer, and our beloved homeland would become a progressive and a model country".

Later, the Politburo of the CC of the PDPA endorsed a resolution on the future development of education in the DRA in line with the directives of Babruk Karmal.

CSO: 4600/427

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

MUJAHIDIN SUCCESSES REPORTED--Reports from Afghanistan speak of severe clashes between Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet-Karmal forces in Vardak and Faryab provinces. The mujahidin reportedly damaged three helicopter gunships and a MiG aircraft during an operation in the (Narak) subdivision of Vardah Province on 13 April. The mujahidin repulsed the Soviet-Karma forces' joint offensive in the area after 2 days of fierce resistance. In Faryab Province, [words indistinct] of life and property on the enemy in two encounters. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 May 85 BK]

MUJAHIDIN CRITICISM OF TRIBAL ASSEMBLY--Peshawa, 23 Apr (PPI)--Five prominent leaders of the Afghan struggle have labelled the Loya Jergah [grand tribal assembly] in Kabul a "farce" and a ruse to get the previously nominated candidates elected. Golbeddin Hekmatyar, Yunes Khales, Professor Borhaneddin Rabbani, Seyyed As'ad Gilani, and Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi stated this at a press conference here today. Speaking on behalf of seven leading parties, Maulvi Yunes Khales said: We reject this drama staged by those traitorous Afghans who brought Soviet tanks into Afghanistan. We are confident that they will not succeed in deceiving the Afghan people. He said: The Afghan people cannot forget the atrocities perpetrated by the Soviets and their puppet rulers against the Afghan people during the past 5 years, due to which 4 million Afghans had to leave their homes and 1 million have lost their lives. Maulvi Yunes Khales said that the Afghan Mujahidin will continue their freedom struggle until they are successful. [Text] [Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 24 Apr 85 p 1 GF]

CSO: 4656/130

BANGLADESH

THREE-YEAR RECORD OF ERSHAD REGIME REVIEWED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Mar 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The government of President and CMLA Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad completes three years in office today coinciding with the massive mandate of the people in favour of his policies and programmes through the country-wide referendum of March 21, reports BSS.

The government steps into the threshold of the fourth year amid an impressive record of achievements in various sectors including administration, judiciary, industries, health, agriculture and education during the short span of three years.

The policy of decentralisation and devolution of administration doing away with centuries old colonial system has not only taken administration to the doorsteps of the people but also infused a new life and vigour to the rural development activities. In fact, 464 upazilas created in phases in the country are now pulsating with development activities involving people of the respective areas in the mainstream of national development process.

The rural development programmes based on upazila is expected to receive further impetus with the election of upazila chairmen.

The upazila system evolved and initiated by President Ershad

has already started giving handsome dividend in generating development activities from the grassroots level and giving their benefits to the local people.

New townships are gradually coming up in the far flung rural areas around each upazila headquarters of the country whereas many as sixteen government functionaries have been working to improve the quality of life of the rural people neglected and overlooked by governments in the past.

The establishment of magistrate and munsif courts at the upazila level has saved people from untold sufferings in getting justice. The expansion of the High Court branches to several district headquarters of the country only added to the benefits of the litigant public who earlier had to come all the way to the capital.

The new liberal industrial policy of the government opening scopes for greater participation of the private sector has succeeded in a large measure in putting the otherwise crippled economy on an even keel. With the launching of the new industrial policy only six categories of industries which are basic and strategic and utilities are reserved

for government leaving all other industries open for participation by the private sector.

Under the disinvestment programme, the present government had disinvested 33 jute mills, 25 textile mills and nearly 600 commercial units.

Legal guarantee has been given to the foreign investors for the investment of their capital in the industrial enterprises in the country.

With the implementation of the new drug policy 1,707 harmful and unnecessary drugs have been banned. The drug policy has saved Tk 30 crore in foreign exchange and encouraged local pharmaceutical companies to meet the country's requirements. Only 250 drugs have been retained as essential with only 33 drugs selected for primary level of healthcare.

Health complexes have been set up at upazila level and their unit at union level with facilities for mother child care. The health policy of the government aims at ensuring health for all by 2000.

Yet another feather that adds to the cap of the present government is land reform which has protected the rights of the sharecroppers who had been exploited in the past.

Rapid expansion of agricultural credit, increase in area under irrigation, supply of improved seeds and augmentation in the production of fertilizer have resulted in stepping up production of foodgrains and other cash crops to a great extent.

The present government has laid utmost emphasis on the education sector to make it more realistic, job-oriented, scientific and responsive to the economic needs of the country.

Over 12,000 primary teachers have been appointed in the first two years of the present government, about half of them women. Text books worth several crore taka are being distributed among the students of primary level free of cost each year. The government have taken a comprehensive programme to achieve universal primary education of 50 per cent by 1987.

Nationalisation of schools and colleges, improvement of campus facilities and promotion of technical education are some of the basic objectives of the education policy of the government.

Realising the gravity of the problem of population explosion the government has launched an action programme to reduce the growth rate from the current level of 2.6 per cent to 1.7 per cent by 1985.

The country has been brought under direct international dialling system from December, 1983. Almost all the district headquarters in the country have been brought under direct dialling network.

In the energy sector, nearly 200 upazillas have been brought under rural electrification programme. Work is continuing to expand this programme to other upazillas. A total of 5,000 miles of distribution lines have been constructed by the Rural Electrification Board during the first two years of the present government, while the commissioning of the east-west inter-connector is saving Taka 34 lakh per day in fuel cost.

Natural gas is now being supplied to Chittagong and Comilla towns. More towns and industrial belts in the east zone will be supplied with natural gas soon. Efforts are underway to reach natural gas to the northern areas of the country.

A master plan has been chalked out to construct a road bridge over the river Jamuna. A revolutionary change will be effected in the communication sector with the construction of the bridge.

In the water development sector, a master plan organisation has been set up to prepare national master plan for the optimum utilisation of water resources for the development of the country.

The realistic and dynamic foreign policy being pursued by the government of President Ershad has succeeded in strengthening the country's bilateral relations with all countries of the world.

The holding of the 14th Islamic Conference of the Foreign Ministers in Dhaka in

December, 1983 is a vindication of the appreciation of the foreign policy of Bangladesh in Muslim world.

A two-day conference of the Islamic Development Banks held in Dhaka in the first week of February last is indicative of the support of the Muslim countries to Bangladesh.

Along with economic steps to take the country on the road to progress, President Ershad initiated measures to hasten the country's process to democracy. In his bid to persuade the opposition to take part in the election the President shifted the date of election four times in course of last one year.

He also dissolved the Janata dominated council of ministers, abolished military tribunals and restored fundamental rights and writ jurisdiction of High Court partially to convince the opposition of his sincerity to take the country back to democratic rule.

The President, who spared no efforts to facilitate the country's return to democracy, declared in unambiguous term that he himself and his government would remain absolutely neutral in the election.

After exhausting all his sincere endeavours to persuade the opposition to participate in the election, President Ershad had at last called for referendum seeking the verdict of the people in favour of his policies and programmes. The people obliged him by giving their overwhelming support in the referendum held on Thursday.

BANGLADESH

PAPER REPORTS ERSHAD, FAHD TALKS IN RIYADH

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 Apr 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

RIYADH, Apr 2 (BSS) : President and CMLA Lt. Gen. H M Ershad met King Fahd of Saudi Arabia at Royal Palace this afternoon.

Official spokesman said the discussion between the two leaders were held in a very cordial atmosphere.

The meeting lasting two and a half hours touched on bilateral matters of mutual interest, subjects relating to the latest obtaining condition in the Muslim countries with special reference to the Gulf war and Middle East problem and international issues of common concern.

The meeting was marked by broad based understanding between the two leaders. During the course of the meeting they had their lunch together.

King Fahd's recent visit to the United States also featured in the discussion.

President Ershad apprised the King about the administrative and socio-economic reforms implemented by him which had already started yielding positive results.

The Saudi King expressed his heartiest congratulations to President Ershad on the massive mandate he received from the people of Bangladesh towards his leadership and his government's programme. King Fahd commended President Ershad's efforts towards improving the lot of the people of his country and expressed his desire to continue Saudi assistance to

President Ershad's endeavour to improve the condition of the people.

President Ershad renewed his invitation to King Fahd to visit Bangladesh at a convenient time. The King thanked the Bangladesh President for the invitation and told him that he will visit Bangladesh soon and on that opportunity will visit other South East Asian Muslim countries as well.

During the talks Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, Defence Minister and Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, Oil Minister Dr Ahamed Zaki Yamani, Finance Minister Abu Al Khail, Planning Minister Hisham Nazer, Health Minister Hejheilan and members of the Royal Court were present on the Saudi side.

On the Bangladesh side Foreign Adviser Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, Chief of General Staff Major Gen M. A. Samad and Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohammed Mohsin were present.

Earlier on arrival at the Royal Palace, President Ershad was warmly received by King Fahd. They embraced each other in traditional Arab style.

The talks over, the Saudi King walked down along with the Bangladesh President to the portico and bade the Bangladesh president a hearty farewell.

CSO: 4600/1498

BANGLADESH

CABINET MEETS, REVIEWS MIDEAST WAR SITUATION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] A meeting of the Council of Ministers was held at Bangabhaban on Sunday with the President and CMLA Lt Gen H.M. Ershad in the chair, reports BSS.

The Council reviewed the Iran-Iraq war and expressed profound anguish and sorrow at its recent escalation causing further loss of valuable lives and property on both sides. The situation has been aggravated by the resumption of attacks on areas entailing death and misery to civilian population and serious damages to their property.

It felt that serious efforts should be made by the warring nations as well as states friendly to them to halt the fratricidal war without loss of time. President Lt Gen H.M. Ershad expressed his readiness to make earnest endeavours to help bring about better understanding between the two brotherly Muslim countries with a view to ending the conflict immediately.

CSO: 4600/1489

BANGLADESH

RATIFICATION OF NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY DEPOSITED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Mar 85 p 8

[Text] Moscow, Mar 12:---Bangladesh has reiterated her call for a general and complete disarmament and other measures to safeguard and strengthen the fragile structure of world peace reports BSS

Bangladesh ambassador to the USSR, Syed Najmuddin Hashim deposited Bangladesh's accession to a treaty and a convention of disarmament here yesterday and in his brief speech on the occasion, said that his country attached great importance to general and complete disarmament.

The treaty signed in Moscow in 1963 by the USA the USSR and the UK bans nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in the outer space and under water. The convention on the prohibition of the development production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their destruction was signed in Moscow, Washington and London by the USSR the USA and the UK in 1972.

Ambassador Hashim said that those who were capable of waging a war must primarily shoulder the responsibility for keeping the peace.

The peace loving people of Bangladesh he said needed a milieu of peace to be able to develop their human and material resources to ensure for themselves a decent standard of living. They therefore, look to the Soviet Union and other signatories to the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) and biological warfare convention for subsequent tangible and effective measures for the promotion of world peace, he added.

Ambassador Hashim in his speech also referred to President Ershad's address to the second special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament in June 1982 where the Bangladesh President had expressed growing concern at the continuing escalation of arms race which threatened the very existence of human race.

The President had also proposed that since outer space was a common heritage of mankind it should be used for humanity at large.

President Ershad had also pressed for a decision to convene the Colombo conference on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace in conformity with General Assembly resolutions.

Receiving the instruments of accession on behalf of the USSR Government, Mr Y E Fokin Secretary General of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that depositing of Bangladesh's documents in Moscow, which played important role in negotiating the treaty and the convention was a fact of certain positive, significance for Soviet Bangladesh relations.

Bangladesh's instrument of accession were signed by Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury.

CSO: 5250/0006

BANGLADESH

TEXT OF ERSHAD 25 MARCH INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26, 28 Mar 85

[26 Mar 85 pp 1, 10]

[Text] President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H.M. Ershad said that the national elections would be held as soon as the Opposition political parties agree to participate in the elections.

Addressing the nation over radio and television on the eve of the Independence Day on Monday President Ershad said that the Martial Law could at best be an ephemeral phase in running the administration of the country. He said his administration had made repeated efforts in the past at installing a representative democratic government in the country.

He reiterated that his administration would continue to address itself to the task of holding national elections and transfer power to the elected representative of the people.

General Ershad underlined the importance of completing the upazila chairman election as this would have a salutary effect on rural areas.

The CMLA also maintained that there has to be a consensus on the national economic policy so that it can be pursued without on March 21. He assured the national importance he asserted.

He said this was necessary to keep the national economy on the same track. This will ensure steady progress of the country the CMLA said.

General Ershad expressed his deep sense of gratitude to the people for reposing confidence in him in the referendum held on March 21. He assured the nation that he would prove worthy of their confidence and trust and work unwaveringly for the development of the nation and improve the lot of the people.

He recalled the situation under which he was forced to take the course of referendum. He said his administration had honestly wished to install a democratic set up in the country after holding a free and fair election.

He said the opposition continued to pour cold waters on his initiatives. He said opposition reluctance to join the elections had brought the law and order

situation to an abysmal situation. He said the Government had shown resilience in the face of Opposition demand only to establish a democratic government in the country. He said all the opposition demands have been met and hoped that the political parties would take part in the elections and help restoration of a democratic government in the country.

Text of Speech

Following is the English rendering of the President and Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt General Hussain Muhammad Ershad's address to the nation simultaneously broadcast over radio and television on Monday evening, reports BSS.

Bismillabir Rahmanir Rahim, My Dear Countrymen Assalamu Alaikum.

Tomorrow is the fourteenth anniversary of our independence. At this happy moment of our Independence and National Day, I convey to you my sincere greetings and good wishes. I wish you a bright future and hope that the coming years will usher in happiness, peace and prosperity for all. People from all walks of life and the Armed Forces fought shoulder to shoulder a bloody war of independence fourteen years ago to free our dear motherland. We achieved our independence and sovereignty at the cost of many sacrifices and blood of millions of martyrs. With deep respect I remember those valiant freedom fighters for whose sacrifices we have got a homeland and our own national flag. On this auspicious occasion I pray for the salvation of the souls of the martyrs of our independence war.

People Thanked

I take this opportunity to convey to you my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for expressing your support and confidence through March 21 Referendum in my continuation as President as well as in the programmes and policies of my government. The wishes of Allah, the Merciful, have been expressed through you that I will continue to discharge my responsibilities as President till the general elections are held under the suspended constitution. I pray to the Almighty Allah to give me the strength to perform this onerous responsibility. I am overwhelmed by the love and support you have extended to me. In this context I thank all concerned who have contributed towards peaceful holding of the Referendum successfully. I am giving you the assurance that showing respect to your confidence and support, we will not only continue our relentless efforts with all our might for continued development of the country and improving your condition but also our endeavors in this regard shall be intensified. We are determined to establish our dear motherland with a dignity and prestige in the comity of nations.

Free Expression of Views

My dear countrymen,

You are aware under what circumstances the decision to hold the Referendum was taken. I have spoken to you in different public meetings and addresses to the nation on various occasions about the programmes and efforts of my

government for transition to democracy through national elections as committed by me with a view to ending Martial Law. We initiated the programme for transition to democracy at a time when no political party even spoke of democracy or elections. It is only our sincerity that had inspired us to take those steps towards democracy. We have completed the holding of the Union Parishad and the Paurashava elections smoothly with spontaneous participation of the people. After this initiative was taken to hold the elections for Upazila Parishad Chairmen, at the same time announcement was also made to hold the Presidential election under the suspended constitution. Martial Law was relaxed as far as possible facilitating political activities and free expression of views in the Press.

Free, Fair Polls

We sincerely wanted to establish democracy and an elected government through holding free, fair and smooth elections. Long discussions were held with a view to minimising differences in the political arena and decision was taken to hold the elections on the basis of more or less, an acceptable programme. Accordingly the date for holding the parliamentary elections was fixed on December 8 last by postponing the Presidential and Parliamentary elections scheduled for May 27. You are aware of all the events that followed. The reluctance of some political parties to seek verdict of the people in the elections was taking the country to the path of total uncertainty. A serious situations was created due to repeated hartals processions, violence, indiscipline in educational institution, and rattling of weapons. But in the interest of transition to democracy we have extended our cooperation and shown utmost patience and restraint. We fulfilled all the demands of the political parties one after another with the hope that they would participate in the elections and cooperate in the establishment of democracy peacefully in national interest showing respect to the hopes and aspirations of the people. But it is a matter of regret that they have failed to fulfill that expectation of the nation. As a result, elections were postponed one after another. Even after doing all these to accommodate their viewpoints, when their activities were leading the nation towards uncertainty and disaster, I eventually had to seek your verdict directly through referendum to protect the nation, ensure peace discipline in the public life and continued development. I am deeply grateful for your unequivocal confidence in me and my programmes.

Economic Uplift

My dear countrymen,

Our country is small. We may be poor. But as a nation we are not small. We have a rich heritage. We are determined to make our independence meaningful and uphold our traditional dignity through the betterment of the condition of the ten crore people of the country. For this, continued economic uplift is necessary. Peace, discipline and stability are the essential preconditions for development. The confidence you have reposed on me and my policies and programmes will be particularly helpful in fulfilling these preconditions. We had undertaken a good number of steps one after another since we took over the administration of the country three years ago for the welfare of the

country and the people. Unprecedented changes had been brought about through many a epoch making steps. The administration had been taken nearer to the people by introducing Upazila (subdistrict) system under administrative decentralisation. As a result, crores of rural people who had hitherto been neglected are now getting direct administrative facilities and a new era of development has been initiated. In the same way we brought justice within the easy reach of the common man through the decentralisation of the judiciary.

Share-croppers right ensured

Land Reform Act has been promulgated to protect the interest of the farmers. For this enactment no one will ever be able to evict any farmer from his home-stead for nonpayment of loans. To save sharecroppers from uncertainty right has been ensured. Now they are entitled to cultivate the share-land for at least five years. To protect the right of farm workers, minimum wage has been fixed for them. We have witnessed during the last year's unprecedented floods that how much of good work can be accomplished by the simple and hard working rural people if they are provided with proper help and cooperation. We have been able to successfully overcome the flood situation through the concerted efforts of the administration, members of the armed forces and you during such a national crisis. The whole world witnessed with admiration that Bangladesh not only successfully overcame such a national crisis but also had been able to make good the losses to a great extent by proper implementation of post-flood rehabilitation programmes.

Liberal Industrial Policy

The steps taken by my government in all sectors including agriculture, industry trade and administration have made unprecedented contribution towards the overall economic development. Consequently national production has increased considerably. The pace of industrialization has been accelerated and production increased to a great extent as a result of the adoption of a new liberal industrial policy. The nationalised industrial units which had been continuously incurring losses have now started earning profits. The rest have also started minimising their losses and striding resolutely to make profit. Acreage under irrigation and the use of fertilizer have increased to a great extent. The quantum of agricultural loan almost doubled during the last three years. Particularly success has been achieved in export trade as a result of introducing new effective steps and giving special facilities to the exporters. Export earning has been increased considerably. Pragmatic steps have been taken for the development of communication system as well as increasing power fuel resources for developing a strong infrastructure for national development as a result of construction of new roads and bridges, the communication system has improved to a great extent facilitating increased movement of people and transportation of goods. Road communication has been established in almost every upazila. Construction work of a bridge over the Buriganga has already been taken in hand. Inshallah (God willing) we shall construct bridges over the Jamuna, the Meghna, the Karnaphuli, and the Rupsha Rivers. This will bring about a radical change in our centuries old communication system and life pattern.

[28 Mar 85 p 6]

[Text] Following is the remaining part of the President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt General Hussain Muhammad Ershad's address to the nation on Monday on the eve of Independence and National Day.

We are implementing a number of steps and programmes for establishment of Islamic ideals and values in our religious minded Muslim majority country and at the same time all citizens of our country are enjoying full religious rights. Our programmes included establishment of maktabs to elementary religious education in two lakh mosques, setting up of Zakat Fund establishment of Islamic Mission declaration of Friday as weekly holiday, renovation and expansion of different mosques expansion of national Mosque "Baitul Mukarram" and its beautification and establishment of national "Eid Gah." Welfare trust have also been set up for the followers of Hindu, Christian and Buddhist religions.

The work on the national mausoleum for unknown martyrs of the Liberation War has been completed and the Central Shaheed Minar has been expanded in keeping with the original design. Foundation stone for the monument of Liberation War at Mujibnagar has been laid. Biography of the seven "Bir Shresthas" (greatest war heroes) have been included in school textbooks, documentary films on their lives have been produced and houses have also been built for their families.

Priority to education

We have given special priority to education. Highest allocation has been made in the budget for education sector. An education system compatible with the requirements of an independent nation is essential. So the education system needs to be recast making it more pragmatic, scientific and suitable to meet the economic requirement of the country. We are implementing the programme for eradicating illiteracy and to ensure universal primary education. Steps have been taken to provide one primary school in the radius of every two kilometres or for every two thousand population. A boys and a girls school in each upazila and a college in each district are being developed as ideal educational institutions through their nationalisation. Funds have already been provided for construction of seven university residential halls and 17 college hostels. Besides grants are being made from my funds for development of country's different educational institutions. It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure congenial atmosphere for education so that our posterity grow as worthy citizens.

Drug Policy

We have also achieved progress also in the field of checking population growth, identified as main problem of the country. We hope that we shall be able to attain the target of population control. Our achievement in expansion of health facilities is also noteworthy. We have implemented the epoch-making Drug Policy. Under this policy 1,707 brands of unnecessary and harmful medicines have been banned. The implementation of the drug policy has paved the way for the growth of local pharmaceutical industry.

Women's Welfare

Special attention has been given for the welfare of women with the objective of building a balanced society. Measures have been taken for setting up of family courts. The women will get justice in family courts if and when they become victims of family oppression. The law against oppression of women and antidowry act have been made effective. Steps have been taken for expansion of female education. Measures have also been taken to provide special facilities for job opportunity of women.

Foreign Policy

My dear countrymen

In international relations Bangladesh's bonds of friendship and fraternity have been consolidated and expanded during the last three years. In particular, our cordial relations with fraternal Muslim countries have been deepened with more expansion of the areas of cooperation. We have successfully played host to the 14th Islamic Foreign Ministers conference in December 1983 in Dhaka besides taking part in various forum of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. Last month the Board of Directors of Islamic Development Bank held its meeting in Dhaka and Finance Ministers of Muslim countries participated in this important meeting. Bangladesh earned esteem abroad by successful holding of these two important conferences in Dhaka. We have widened the prospect for cooperation in this region for the welfare of giving concrete shape to South Asian Regional Cooperation forum. A summit meeting of the SARC member countries is expected to be held in Dhaka at the end of this year. We are always making efforts to solve various problems with neighbouring countries and expand the areas of cooperation with them through mutual bilateral negotiations. We are playing our due role as members of the United Nations, Nonaligned Movement and the Commonwealth. We are playing our appropriate role. At the same time we have kept our efforts to foster bilateral friendly relations and cooperation with all countries of the world.

My dear countrymen,

As in the past I want to tell you again today that as a nation our policies and programmes should have a common continuity. After arriving a consensus on basic policies on national economic activities, it is essential to continue with those policies no matter which government runs the country. It is essential to formulate and follow such specific policy guidelines in national life. Because a continuity must be maintained to ensure onward march of the country.

Martial Law temporary measure

My dear countrymen,

Martial Law is only a temporary measure for running the administration of the country. I have told you earlier repeatedly about our sincere efforts to establish a democratic government in the country ending Martial Law. I reiterate again that we want to pave the way for transition to democracy through holding of national election peacefully as soon as possible.

Arrangements for election will be made whenever the political parties are prepared for the poll. Earlier we have completed holding of elections to Local Government bodies institutions. We believe that the sooner the postponed election to upazila chairmen is held the better for welfare of the rural people and above all the entire nation. It is essential that the development activities in the upazilas are run by the local chairman elected by the local people. Because, a local elected upazila chairman will be better acquainted with the problems and development requirements of his area. As elected representative of the local people he will be more attentive to solve those problems and will also play special effective role in carrying out development activities according to the needs of his area. So, it is essential to hold upazila election in the interest of the people and for the development of the country.

My dear countrymen,

During the last three eventful years, we have marched ahead facing favourable as well as unfavourable circumstances. We have also received immense help and cooperation. Life is made of both joys and sorrows. The national life is also no exception. It is heartening that during the last three years we have been able to make much strides forward overcoming the past inertia. This progress has been possible because of your total support help and cooperation. On behalf of my government I express my heartfelt thanks to you for your spontaneous participation in development activities and giving inspiration to the efforts for peace, discipline progress and transition to democracy. We firmly believe that our onward march will continue unhindered and Inshallah we shall be able reach the cherished goal of building a happy and prosperous new Bangladesh.

Almighty Allah, the Merciful is certainly with us Khoda Hafez Bangladesh Zindabed.

CSO: 4600/1491

BANGLADESH

ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN BEING REVISED DOWNWARD

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 Apr 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Syed Badiuzzaman]

[Text] The annual development Programme (ADP) of the current financial year is being revised lowering its size to Taka 3494 crore from the original allocation of Taka 3896 crore.

Shortfall in both domestic and external resources, particularly the project aid is learnt to be the reason for a downward revision of the current year's ADP.

Officials who are now busy giving final touch on the revised ADP have estimated a resource shortfall of Taka 401.56 crore which includes domestic resource of Taka 115.47 crore and project aid of Taka 286.09 crore.

Under the original Taka 3896 crore ADP, the Taka size was Taka 2049 crore and the project aid was Taka 1847 crore. But now under the revised programme, the Taka size has come down to Taka 1933 crore while the project aid to Taka 1561 crore.

However, an estimate made by the External Resources Divi-

sion, and the Ministry of Finance itself showed that there may be a further shortfall of Taka 322 crore due to what they call an adverse climate of foreign aid.

The current shortfall of about Taka 400 crore has been attributed by the relevant officials to a decline of the non-tax receipt by Taka 200 crore and an additional expenditure of Taka 175 crore due to damage caused by the flood.

Although the ADP is being revised, the priorities of different sectors were not shifted as such excepting between agricultural and power. In the original ADP, agriculture received second highest allocation but in the revised ADP, power sector was given the second highest amount.

In the original ADP, the water resources sector was allocated an amount of Taka 272.60 crore followed by agriculture Taka 208.79 crore, power Taka 198.30

crore, transprt Taka 168.13 crore and industries Taka 148.15 crore. In the revised ADP the allocation for water resources sector has come down to Taka 245.24 crore followed by power Taka 198.30 crore agriculture Tk 188.78 crore transport Taka 165.42 crore and industries Taka 127.21 crore.

Another striking feature of the revised ADP is that the allocations of Taka 423 crore for upazila infrastructure and development assistance to upazila, Taka 50 crore for Chittagong Hill Tracts Special Programme and Taka 9.15 crore for paurashavas under it remained just as they were in the original ADP.

CSO: 4600/1498

BANGLADESH

IDA AID FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLEDGED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 Apr 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh will continue its efforts to achieve Universal Primary Education (UPE) by the year 2000 with the help of an SDR 80.1 million (dollars 78 million) credit from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank resident mission in Dhaka said yesterday, reports BSS.

The project is designed to improve and expand primary school facilities and to develop an integrated teacher training system. It will also improve the quality of instruction by reforming the primary teacher training programmes, updating the curriculum, and increasing the supply of instructional materials and textbooks.

Cost-saving measures will be introduced, such as the use of lower cost school construction designs and a more efficient distribution of textbooks. Teacher salary costs will be reduced by using teachers more efficiently, and by expanding project impact, a low-cost experimental instruction programme that uses teachers to coordinate the work of community participants.

The project also aims to improve the management and administration of the primary school system by strengthening the Directorate of Primary Education in the Ministry of Education. A project support communications system will be developed and the overall flow of management information improved.

By 1991, enrolments are expected to increase by about 740,000 of which 400,000 or 55

per cent. will be female students. As a result of the project, the dropout rate of more than 50 per cent is expected to decline considerably.

Universal primary education by the year 2000 has a target enrolment goal of 19 per cent for children of primary school age—from the age of six to ten. IDA, the World Bank's affiliate for concessionary lending, provided a credit of dollars 40 million in 1980 for a first primary school project.

The project will have a total cost of dollars 103.4 million. Besides the IDA credit, parallel financing in the form of grants is being provided by the United Nations Development Programme (dollars 2.3 million), UNICEF (dollars 4.9 million) and the Swedish International Development Agency (dollars 2.2 million). The Government of Bangladesh will finance the remainder of the costs.

The IDA credit is for 50 years, including 10 year's grace. It carries no interest but has annual charges (0.5 per cent on the undisbursed balances and 0.75 per cent on the disbursed balances).

IDA credits are denominated in SDRs (special drawing rights), which are valued on the basis of a "basket" of currencies. The U.S. dollar equivalent of the SDR amount of the IDA credit reflects the exchange rates existing at the time of the negotiation of the credit.

CSO: 4600/1498

24 May 1985

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

UNSCHEDULED SOVIET LANDING--Mystery still shrouds the landing of a cargo flight of the Soviet airlines Aerofot at the Dhaka International Airport and its parking for long five hours at the tarmac on Thursday without contacting the control tower. The Calcutta-bound cargo flight introduced into the air-space of Bangladesh and sought landing permission from the Dhaka control tower. It was said that the flight could not land in Calcutta due to inclement weather. The Dhaka control room first refused to give landing permission. However, it later gave the permission and the Soviet aircraft landed but did not contact the control tower for long five hours. Security personnel rounded up the aircraft since it did not contact the control tower. Civil Aviation and Touring Minister Barrister A.R. Yusuf, when contacted, confirmed the incident. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 19 Mar 85 pp 1, 8]

TROUBLES ON BORDER--Satkhira, March 24--One Atiar Rahman of Shafpur Debhata Upazila, was shot dead last night. The body was found at Chargram near town Sreepur near Indian border this morning. It could not yet be ascertained as to who shot him dead, but local reports said that Atiar Rahman was shot by BSF while, he was going in a boat crossing Ichamoti River for landing on Indian border. BDB Commanding Officer, Sathira, when contacted could not give any report in this regard but opined that this killing might have been done by miscreants or BSF while crossing the border. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination and a case started. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 25 Mar 85 pp 1, 8]

REPRESENTATION IN PRC--Mr A.Z.M. Enayetullah Khan, a former minister and the editor of HOLIDAY is tipped to be appointed as the ambassador of Bangladesh to the People's Republic of China, it is learnt. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 25 Mar 85 p 1]

TALKS WITH IRAN--Bangladesh and Iran concluded in Dhaka yesterday the three-day discussions at the expert level on the proposed air transport agreement between the two countries, reports BSS. Group Captain (retd) M. Shaukat-ul Islam, Director General, Civil Aviation and Mr Hajighasemali Mahmood, leader of the Iranian delegation, led their respective sides during the talks. According to informed sources, a Bangladesh Biman market survey team might visit Iran to collect the required information to assess the viability of operation between Iran and Bangladesh. The Iranian side indicated their intention to apply for a temporary operating permit (TOP) for Iran Air to connect with Dhaka through one of their east-bound operations as the draft agreement was not discussed

during the meeting. The Bangladesh side observed that the just concluded meeting would be a basis of future rounds of talks leading to the conclusion of an air transport agreement. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Apr 85 p 1]

PROTOCOL WITH GDR--Bangladesh and German Democratic Republic (GDR) signed a barter protocol on Thursday in Berlin providing for exchange of goods worth 10 million US dollars each way, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS. The protocol was signed by the visiting head of the Bangladesh delegation, Mr S. Hasan Ahmad, Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Mr Claus Gaedt, Deputy Foreign Trade Minister of GDR. According to the protocol, Bangladesh will export about 11 items and in return will import such items from GDR. Bangladesh Commerce Secretary during his stay in Berlin called on Mr Horst Soelle, Foreign Trade Minister and the Deputy Foreign Minister of GDR. They exchanged views on matters relating to the development of bilateral trade and economic relations. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 31 Mar 85 p 3]

ANTI-APARTHEID CONVENTION--United Nations, Mar 30 (IINA)--Bangladesh has acceded to the Anti-Apartheid Convention, it was announced today. Its instrument of accession was received by U.N.'s Legal office on February 5, the announcement said. The convention was adopted by the General Assembly in 1973 and came into force in 1976. It provides that international responsibility for the crime of racial discrimination shall apply to individuals, members of organisations and institutions and representatives of a state. Persons charged can be tried by any of the 80 states party to the convention. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 31 Mar 85 p 1]

CSO: 4600/1482

INDIA

WRITER DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENT OF INDO-U.S. RELATIONS

U.S. Awareness of India

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Apr 85 p 8

[Article by Girilal Jain]

[Text]

IN any discussion of the future prospect of Indo-U.S. relations, we should take note of a new element that has entered the picture. Which is that there now exists in the United States a popular awareness of India the like of which has seldom been witnessed before. A variety of factors have reinforced one another to produce this awareness.

It all began with Mrs. Indira Gandhi's visit in the summer of 1982. On the face of it, the visit was not too big a success from the Indian point of view. By way of specific results, it only paved the way for a resolution of the dispute over the supply of enriched uranium and spare parts for the Tarapur plant, and that too because the French and the West Germans were prepared, for their own reasons, to help; the French in respect of enriched uranium and the Germans in respect of spare parts. And it did not end the U.S. policymakers' ambivalence towards the former Prime Minister. But it ended a major source of friction between the two governments, created the possibility of the U.S. adopting a more helpful approach towards India, and above all, it was a significant media event. Mrs. Gandhi apparently came off very well on the TV screen so much so that a number of Americans recalled it to me almost three years later during a recent visit to their country.

This was followed by Attenborough's *Gandhi* towards the end of 1982. To borrow from the language of war, it was a blockbuster. Several Indian commentators who happened to visit the

United States then wrote about the appeal of the film to Americans who saw it in their millions. But while no Indian commentator could anticipate that *Gandhi* would firmly install India in the hearts and minds of a lot of Americans, this is precisely what it did. *Gandhi* stirred something quite deep in the American psyche.

The real Mahatma, as students of history would know, had made an impact on the United States. After all, Martin Luther King had derived his techniques of non-violent resistance to racial discrimination from him. The Mahatma's message had also had an appeal, especially in the sixties and the seventies, for those Americans who had come to reject industrialism and were looking for what they regarded a saner alternative. But Attenborough's *Gandhi* was a different story altogether.

It did much more than introduce the Mahatma and therefore India to ordinary Americans who had not heard of the former and did not care for the latter. It brought alive for Americans a Christ-like figure all Christians have yearned for in the deepest recesses of their psyche.

Positive Impact

For all we know, Attenborough was not concerned whether or not his film would promote India. But his *Gandhi* gave Americans a view of India which was different from the one either popular magazine articles or well-meant charity publicity campaigns had given. It transformed the image of the Indian people — from victims of poverty, illiteracy and superstition into brave

fighters for freedom and justice. Perhaps for the first time *Gandhi* impressed a positive picture of India on the American mind.

Mrs. Gandhi's visit to the United States had been preceded by the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979, India's refusal to support the U.N. resolution condemning it and calling for the withdrawal of Soviet troops in January 1980 when she was back in power in New Delhi, and the Reagan administration's decision to extend military-cum-economic assistance to Pakistan totalling \$3.2 billion.

Many of us in India have viewed the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in the context of the new cold war. And since we have by and large held President Reagan's unashamedly right-wing administration responsible for this second cold war on account of its policy of wanting to restore America's superiority over the Soviet Union in the military field, the only field in which the Russians have managed to achieve parity with the Americans, we have no idea of the impact of the Soviet action in Afghanistan on the American psyche. It angered and aroused the Americans as no other Soviet move had for a long time. Almost to a man, they were united in their condemnation of what they called Soviet aggression and occupation of Afghanistan.

So when on her return to office in January 1980, Mrs. Gandhi refused to join more than 100 other governments, many of them members of the non-aligned group, in their condemnation of Soviet intervention, the American reaction was one of dismay, annoyance and resentment. For them her move to stay neutral was one more piece of evidence that she was irrevocably pro-Soviet and anti-U.S. At least to me personally, no American has ever compared her with Mr. Krishna Menon, though he too irked them so much so that they remember him almost a quarter of a century after he ceased to be important in India's affairs.

Enduring Fascination

She, however, fascinated them as no other Indian has fascinated them, not even her great father, Jawaharlal Nehru. This became evident at the time of her visit to the United States in 1982 but not fully. America's fascination with Mrs. Gandhi came into full play at the time of her assassination.

No political assassination since President Kennedy's in 1963 has received the kind of media coverage Mrs. Gandhi's did in the United States. Leading newspapers such as

the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *Los Angeles Times* devoted pages and pages to her and so did popular magazines such as *Time* and *Newsweek*. Even more significantly, the cremation ceremony was telecast live for four and a half hours on the west coast and by cable service in the rest of America where the time difference was unfavourable for popular viewing.

This explosion of interest in Mrs. Gandhi was, of course, spontaneous. It was also a tribute to her status as India's Prime Minister and chairperson of the non-aligned movement. But above all, it was an expression of the Americans' fascination for her.

It would be intellectual laziness to describe American fascination for Mrs. Gandhi as a love-hate relationship. I have not seen either much love for her among Americans of any strata and description or the kind of sizzling hatred which Castro arouses among them. President Reagan and his aides certainly wanted to do business with her and were confident of being able to do so at an appropriate time. Even the move to sell some weapons involving high technology to India on terms acceptable to India was initiated when she was still around.

In my opinion, the American fascination for Mrs. Gandhi was a mix of admiration and distrust. They admired her precisely because she refused to be brow-beaten by them, however heavy the odds and great the risks. Kissinger gave expression to this fairly widespread admiration for her in his memoirs when he described her as a cold-blooded practitioner of realpolitik in the service of her country. And they distrusted her because more often than not she was seen to side with the Soviet Union. While this distrust was not strong enough to exclude the possibility of a deal with her, it informed the American attitude, official as well as popular, towards her.

As far as I can determine on the strength of my discussions with American scholars and policy-makers over the years, I can say that despite their distrust of her they had come to equate India's political stability which they valued for their own geostrategic considerations with her. During the recent visit I also discovered that the ease with which Mr. Rajiv Gandhi first stepped into the office of Prime Minister on that fateful October 31 and then won a massive mandate from the people came as a great surprise to most Americans.

Ironies Of History

It is impossible to say what the American reaction to Mrs. Gandhi's assassination would have been if as a result India had been thrown into confusion. But as things have turned out, it has produced a sense of relief. Since the admiration was a forced one, the other ingredient of distrust has come to the fore. Some Americans might challenge this assessment and it is likely to irritate many more. But during my three weeks in their country I met barely a couple of individuals who were genuinely sad at Mrs. Gandhi's murder or remembered her with fondness.

In all fairness, however, I must hasten to emphasise that Americans feel relieved at the exit of Mrs. Gandhi from the Indian political scene because it has been followed by a smooth transition and demonstration by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi that he is a leader in his own right. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi enjoys in the United States a level of popularity which I do not think even his grandfather enjoyed at the time of his first visit there in 1949 when President Truman expected to win him over as an ally in the fight against communist China.

The Prime Minister commands a wholly positive image in America. His calm and self-possessed face on the occasion of his mother's last rites is impressed on the minds of millions of Americans. They regard his conduct on that occasion as a sign of inner strength. They have been greatly struck by his election campaigns and their results. His western education, love for flying and western music, marriage to a western woman and his commitment to high technology are for them evidence enough that he will be inclined to be more pragmatic and rational than his mother and grandfather, pragmatism and rationalism being for them euphemism for free enterprise and free enterprise a euphemism for a friendlier attitude towards the west.

His first budget has convinced them that they were right in their assessment of him. This positive image will naturally give the Prime Minister a considerable advantage in his discussions with President Reagan and his aides when he goes to the United States in June.

Finally, it is a helpful coincidence that just as Mrs. Gandhi's visit to the United States in 1982 was followed by Attenborough's *Gandhi*, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's succession to her has been followed by the screening of Granada's 11-part *Jewel In The Crown* TV series and David Lean's *Passage To India* in that country. These too have reinforced a positive image of Indians. How strange the British should have contributed so much to promote our country in America. But history is full of such ironies.

Washington's Long-Term Objectives

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Apr 85 p 8

[Article by Girilal Jain]

[Text]

AMERICANS have expected a change in India's foreign policy approach and therefore an improvement in Indo-U.S. relations every time there has been a change of Prime Minister in this country. They entertained such hopes when Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri succeeded Mr. Nehru in 1964, when Mrs. Gandhi succeeded Mr. Shastri in 1966 and when Mr. Morarji Desai displaced Mrs. Gandhi in 1977.

Mr. Shastri, of course, did not live long enough to prove or disprove the validity of the American expectation. And in between the Pakistanis sprang two surprises on him, the first in the Rann of Kutch and then in Jammu and Kashmir, obliging him to order Indian troops across the international border into Punjab. He had begun well from the U.S. point of view by asking for an Anglo-US-Soviet nuclear umbrella against communist China which had acquired nuclear weapons in 1964 and by indicating that agriculture would have priority over industry during his reign.

Mrs. Gandhi too looked promising when she took over in 1966 and, under pressure from the United States exerted through the World Bank, agreed to a whopping 56 per cent devaluation of the Indian rupee. This decision could not have been more ill-timed, coming as it did amidst a terrible drought and widespread shortages which guaranteed that India could not take advantage of devaluation to step up its exports. While mercifully for her, this unfortunate decision did not destroy her politically, it alerted her to the danger of heeding that kind of advice and pressure. So she turned left, to America's great disappointment.

As if this and the subsequent power struggle in the Congress party were not enough to frustrate American expectations, President Yahya Khan unleashed a reign of terror in what was then East Pakistan, leading to the flight of millions of refugees into India and thereby obliging Mrs. Gandhi to support the East Bengali people's demand for a sovereign state of their own. And as it happened, President Nixon

was busy just then trying to open a dialogue with China through President Yahya Khan and therefore found himself under an obligation to be seen to be siding with Pakistan.

Old Play, New Actors

Mr. Desai began his tenure with the announcement that he would follow a policy of genuine non-alignment, implying thereby that his predecessor had not done so. But he was at once too weak and too burdened with his own self-righteousness to be able to clinch some worthwhile deal with the United States in return for his pledge not to go in for nuclear weapons. As his ill-luck would have it, the occupant of the White House too was a self-righteous moralist with no feel for power and all that goes with it. By the time Mr. Desai's government collapsed in the summer of 1979, it had negotiated a wide-ranging arms deal with the Soviet Union.

So in a sense we are witnessing the re-enactment of an old play. Only the actors are new. But to recall history is not to clinch the issue. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and his advisers will have to work out in overall strategy of dealing with the United States if they are not to flounder.

A worthwhile Indian response to the U.S. overtures must inevitably include a detailed assessment of the country's strategic environment now and in the foreseeable future, of the correlation of forces in our region, of the challenges we face and are likely to face in coming years both at home and abroad, and their implications for the country's foreign policy, especially in respect of the United States and the Soviet Union. Such an analysis must raise highly contentious issues which might form the subjects of subsequent articles.

Meanwhile it seems to me that we must get rid of some of the cobwebs, which have clouded our thinking for decades, if we are to understand the long-term U.S. purposes in south Asia and present moves. To begin with, one persistent but erroneous impression needs

to be shed once and for all. This impression is that early in the fifties the United States bought completely the British theory as expounded by Sir Olaf Caroe that Pakistan and not India was central to Western interests since it bordered Afghanistan and Iran and opened, on the Gulf, which contained the "wells of power" (oil), that Washington has stuck to this proposition ever since, and that as a result it has not had anything like a south Asia policy.

This assessment, first put out by Mr. Selig Harrison in a series of articles, should have been questioned then itself. For if the Americans had in fact bought the British theory, President Eisenhower would not have offered "proportionate" military assistance to India in 1954 when his administration concluded a mutual security pact with Pakistan. Surprising though it might appear, this simple proposition has not occurred to most Indian commentators, including this one, all these years.

Strong Evidence

This is not to suggest that the United States did not subscribe to the British argument on the geo-strategic importance of Pakistan but that it did not on that count either write off India, or abandon the hope of reconciling India and Pakistan so that it could have amicable relations with both and possibly bring both into its strategic plans. The evidence to this effect has been overwhelming. Only we have not been willing to examine it.

Much of this evidence can be said to be an offshoot of America's hostility to communist China. President Eisenhower's offer of military assistance in 1954, his invitation to Mr. Nehru to visit the United States in 1956, his own trip to India in 1959, President Kennedy's effort to mobilise economic assistance for this country, his administration's acknowledgement of India's pre-eminence in south Asia, the Anglo-U.S. military supplies in the wake of the Chinese aggression in 1962, President Johnson's decision to end military supplies to both India and Pakistan

at the time of the Indo-Pakistan war in 1965, America's subsequent reluctance to restore security ties with Pakistan — all these we can perhaps shove under the umbrella of U.S. hostility towards China.

But some of the evidence cannot be so shoved. The U.S. did not resume military ties with Pakistan up to the time of Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. Surely this cannot be explained in terms of U.S. hostility towards China, especially after 1971 when the process of Sino-U.S. rapprochement had begun. Nor can the U.S. administrations' effort to promote Indo-Iranian economic cooperation in 1973 which would have

either reduced Pakistan to the status of a corridor between the two countries (India and Iran) or made it marginal in the affairs of the region.

My purpose is neither to provide a justification for various U.S. moves and actions in South Asia nor to question the validity from the viewpoint of the nation's interests of Mr. Nehru's decision first to resist the U.S. search for influence in Asia and then to reject President Eisenhower's offer of military aid. The intention is to point out that the United States has had a south Asia policy; that supply of weapons to India, if acceptable to New Delhi, has been part of it; that while Pakistan has had an important place in its scheme, it has not been of a kind

which would give Islamabad a veto on U.S. policy towards India; that the U.S. policy as it evolved in the fifties was as much the result of its assessment of its interests as of Mr. Nehru's rejection first of President Truman's and then of Mr. Eisenhower's offers.

Resisting Pressure

It is necessary to enter a caveat here based on our past experience. When in the wake of the Chinese aggression in 1962 India decided to expand its defence forces and sought U.S. assistance in that regard, Washington refused to accede fully to the request. It had its own assessment of India's requirements and wanted New Delhi to limit its defence capability to that assessment. It follows that should India ever place itself in a position where it is dependent on U.S. arms supplies, Washington would again seek to limit its defence capability to a level the U.S. regards essential for India's requirements which could be a level acceptable to Pakistan and possibly China as well.

This is, of course, only a theoretical problem. There is no question of either India wanting to replace the Soviet Union as the principal source of its military supplies, or of the Americans being willing to step into Russia's place. They are feeling their way. But for all we know, they might already have sounded President Zia-ul-Haq for his reaction.

India has been trying to diversify its sources of military supplies on two counts. It has not wanted to place all its eggs in one basket and it has needed weapons which the Soviets have either not possessed or not wanted to part with. It has, for instance bought Jaguars, Sea Kings and Harriers from Britain, Mirage-2000 and Alouettes from France and submarines from West Germany. So it would be in order for it to purchase some of its requirements from the United States provided the prices and terms are acceptable.

There is no good reason why such a development should cause undue concern either in the Kremlin or among its friends in India. In any case, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi must resist if there is pressure on this count. He cannot afford to compromise his freedom of action in such matters.

But let us face it, the United States, unlike France and Britain, is not an ordinary arms dealer anxious to increase its size of the world market. It is pursuing a long-term strategy. We must know what this strategy is in order to be able to ensure that we do not compromise the very freedom which we are seeking to expand by increasing our options for purchase of our defence requirements. This would form the subject of my article next week.

CSO: 4600/1515

INDIA

IMPROVED CLIMATE FOR SETTLING PRC BORDER ISSUE SEEN

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Apr 85 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 1. The Governments of India and China are ^{beginning} marking the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, after Indian Independence and the Chinese revolution, to reassure each other of their desire for closer relations, so that the two countries could work together for the preservation of peace and promotion of better understanding among Asian nations.

The Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Wu Xueqian, who was the chief guest at a dinner hosted by the Indian Ambassador, Mr. K. P. S. Menon, in Beijing tonight, spoke eloquently of India's independent and non-aligned policies and commitment to the cause of international peace.

At the dinner given by the Chinese Ambassador, Mr. Li Liqiang, in Delhi tonight, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan, spoke with equal warmth reciprocating the same sentiments on the basis of the texts of the speeches exchanged in advance by the two Governments. But he did not let go the opportunity to stress at the same time the importance of a border settlement in the normalisation of Sino-Indian relations.

Crucial issue

Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan said: "The boundary question remains the crucial issue dividing us, and until there is a just and satisfactory solution to this question, our efforts to achieve full normalisation of our relations will continue to be hampered."

The Chinese Ambassador acknowledged the existence of the border dispute by making a specific mention of it. But he tried to blur it by laying the primary emphasis on restoration of normal relations in the true spirit of the five principles. As one who had not served in India

before nor dealt with the problem in Beijing, he has certainly brought in a certain amount of freshness to the Chinese thinking on the border issue that used to be conspicuously absent in the pronouncements of his distinguished predecessors who served before him in Delhi.

The messages exchanged by the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the Chinese Premier, Mr. Zhao Ziyang, were equally warm and went well beyond the polite expressions used on such occasions. The Chinese leader wanted the two countries to work together to restore the spirit of the 1950s, while expressing the hope that all "outstanding issues" would be resolved as the two countries improved their relations in other spheres.

Carefully worded

The message of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was more carefully worded, but no less eloquent in its references to the vast opportunities open for increased cooperation, although he did not specifically mention the border problem. But he indicated quite clearly that India was prepared to respond positively to any reasonable initiative from the Chinese side for arriving at a reasonable settlement.

At the diplomatic level, there have been no moves from either side for coming to grips with the substantive aspects of the border issue during the next round of official talks in Delhi. The last five rounds held alternate in the two capitals were by and large confined to procedural issues with the result that no discussions of any kind had taken place on the territorial aspects of the border problem.

New mood in Delhi

After Mr. Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister, he had spoken of the need for better relations with the neighbouring countries, and included China among them. The Chinese have been taking their own time in gauging the current political trends in India and assessing the new mood in Delhi before making any fresh moves on the border question.

The Indian side, too, appears to be in no great hurry to have the next round of official talks, since the Prime Minister and his new advisers have not had any time to devote much attention to the border problem. It is highly unlikely that these talks will be held before the second half of this year, since a lot of preparatory work remains to be done for updating the Indian negotiating and fall-back positions for reaching what Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan today described as a "just and satisfactory" settlement which the Chinese call a "fair and reasonable comprehensive solution."

The Government of India, in all its official documents and statements, has been referring to this as a border dispute implying that it is basically a territorial issue, since large areas of Indian territory are under Chinese occupation. The Chinese, on the other hand, continue to call this a boundary question as though the conflict related only to its demarcation that did not involve any major territorial readjustments in the shape of any return of the areas under their occupation.

And what is important is that the climate for mutual accommodation, for finding a just solution taking the legitimate interests of both sides, has improved considerably in recent years and it is not beyond the capacity of the present Governments in India and China to settle this problem. It is in this context that the leadership in China has stopped talking of India's pro-Soviet leanings and started praising its independent and non-aligned policies as though there has been a major shift in India's attitudes.

CSO: 4600/1506

24 May 1985

INDIA

PRC REPORTED TO BE READY FOR TALKS AT POLITICAL LEVEL

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Apr 85 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 11.

The Chinese Government appears to be keen on elevating its on-going dialogue with India to a political level, if possible, instead of confining the current series of talks on the border dispute to senior officials as at present.

Though there were some feelers to this effect in the past to ascertain the Indian reaction, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Wu Xueqian, made a pointed reference to it in the course of his speech at the dinner given by the Indian Ambassador in Beijing, Mr. K. P. S. Menon, on April 1 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1940.

Brief reference: In a brief reference to the unsettled border dispute, he quoted the saying of a Kang dynasty poet that the best way of solving a difficult problem that could not be settled in the normal course was to raise the level of negotiations and take a wider view of it. The China experts in the External Affairs Ministry have been analysing the exact phraseology used by him to assess the significance of this reference.

It was not the first time that the Chinese leaders had talked of the desirability of a dialogue at the political level to arrive at what they call a comprehensive settlement. But it was done in the past in the form of gentle reminders that a return visit by an Indian Foreign Minister to China was long overdue, while renewing the standing invitation to the Prime Minister, first to Indira Gandhi and later on to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to pay a goodwill visit to their country.

Latest theme song: But the parabolic reference by the Chinese Foreign Minister to the words of wisdom of the Kang dynasty poet was evidently intended to reinforce the current emphasis in Beijing's latest pleas for a revival of the Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai spirit of the 1950s

which has become the latest theme song for renewed fraternisation through complete normalisation of relations. The Chinese evidently think that the right tone for arriving at a comprehensive political settlement of the border problem could be set by resuming the cordial and mutually beneficial contacts that existed during the 1950s, before Sino-Indian relations were strained by the border dispute that led to the 1962 conflict.

The Chinese Vice-Premier, Mr. Yao Yetrin, who represented his country at the funeral of Indira Gandhi, said that relations between India and China should be restored to the level of the 1950s, when he called on Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to offer condolences. The new Prime Minister implied in his reply that this relationship could be even better than what it was during the 1950s, once the outstanding issues were settled to mutual satisfaction.

Astute move: It is in the context, and on the basis of these polite exchanges, that the new talk of reverting to the spirit of the 1950s has been initiated by the Chinese Government. The Indian side views this as an astute move to step up the process of normalisation at other levels, for increasing trade, intensifying economic cooperation, stepping up cultural exchanges, encouraging people-to-people contacts and even reopening consulates, without waiting for a border settlement.

The Chinese appear to be very keen on Mr. Rajiv Gandhi paying a goodwill visit to China and they have assured that he would be accorded a much bigger welcome than what Nehru received during his memorable visit to that country in 1954 at the height of the cold-war. But his advisers feel that a visit to China would be inappropriate without some tangible

which has become the latest theme song for renewed fraternisation through complete normalisation of relations. The Chinese evidently think that the right tone for arriving at a comprehensive political settlement of the border problem could be set by resuming the cordial and mutually beneficial contacts that existed during the 1950s, before Sino-Indian relations were strained by the border dispute that led to the 1962 conflict.

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CSO: 4600/1512

INDIA

HINDU ANALYST COMMENTS ON THATCHER VISIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Apr 85 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 11.

The main purpose of the British Prime Minister's brief visit to India on Saturday is to get to know Mr. Rajiv Gandhi better and establish a close personal relationship with him by dispelling the Indian misgivings about the handling of the Sikh extremists in the United Kingdom.

It is intended to overcome the recent strains in Indo-British relations by assuaging India's ruffled feelings over this issue and restore the old cordiality in Indo-British relations that have been adversely affected by the sad events of last year.

When they met briefly in Moscow during Chernenko's funeral, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher told Mr. Rajiv Gandhi of the steps being taken to curb the anti-Indian activities of the Sikh militants consistent with British laws to set the right tone for their meeting in Delhi.

No agenda

This dialogue between the two Prime Ministers on Saturday afternoon, first with a tête-à-tête by themselves and later with their principal advisers joining them, would be in the nature of a continuation of the inconclusive meeting in Moscow last month. As there is no structured agenda as such for these discussions, the two sides will be free to raise any issue they want to voice their concern or seek clarifications.

The British Prime Minister is expected to give her assessment of the Sri Lanka situation, on the basis of the talks she has in Colombo with Mr. J. R. Jayewardene on the Tamil problem. Though it has been selling some limited quantities of arms to Sri Lanka for its anti-insurgency operations, Britain has also been urging Mr. Jayewardene to seek a political settlement of this ethnic issue with Indian assistance.

It remains to be seen whether she brings any message as such from Mr. Jayewardene to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi conveying his latest thinking on the Tamil problem other than what he had told the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, during his recent visit. It would not be surprising if Mrs. Thatcher herself had put forward some suggestions in the course of her talks with the Sri Lankan President for settling this problem, since Britain had dealt with it in the past.

In the bilateral sphere, Mrs. Thatcher would like to see the old cordiality restored through a resumption of the close economic relations. The British Transport Minister is now on a visit to India, and the Defence Minister and Minister of Trade, whose visits had been deferred by the Indian side to voice its displeasure over British reluctance to take action against Sikh elements will follow soon.

Helicopters deal

The British Government which is very keen that India should go through the helicopters deal has suggested that it could pay for the 21 Westland WG-30 transporters, which the Oil and Natural Gas Commission wanted to buy, from the British aid funds in two annual instalments. These 21 helicopters will cost about £85 millions and half of it could be paid from the £115 millions grant assistance for 1985-86, while the remainder could be adjusted against next year's aid allocations.

But the five helicopters of the same type that the Government of India wanted to acquire for its VIP squadron will have to be paid for by India in the normal course. A new doubt has, however, arisen over the entire transaction

following the Prime Minister's remark the other day that these Westland helicopters are too big and too expensive to operate, posing a question mark whether India is going to avail itself of the offer to pay for the 21 helicopters, each of which is capable of carrying as many as 20 persons, from British grant assistance.

Another transaction that has been delayed relates to the Indian bid to buy 11 more Sea Harriers for the Indian Navy. But the Defence Ministry has not agreed to the increased price of £ 100 millions quoted by British Aerospace with the plea that there has been a sharp cost increase since the sale of the last lot of these jump jets.

The British Government is trying to find a way out by waiving the development charges that are added to the price of the Harriers amounting to roughly 10 per cent. But the Indian negotiators want to beat down the price further through a substantial and not marginal reduction of the quotation.

The British industry is no longer in the run for the Orissa steel plant, but it is anxious to bid for the modernisation of the Durgapur plant

which was initially built by a British consortium. It is interested in other industrial contracts which have not yet reached the stage at which Prime Ministerial intervention could help to clinch them.

Aerospace bid

British Aerospace is also a major bidder for collaboration in designing and building the light combat aircraft, but as yet India has not made up its mind about the nature and extent of technical cooperation it needs for this ambitious programme. The talks on a memorandum of understanding with Britain for such cooperation have been dragging on for more than two years ever since the previous British Defence Minister talked of long range collaboration in jointly designing, developing and manufacturing weapon systems for the future.

The Government of India has also been concerned about the country's adverse trade balance with Britain. The British exports to India this year are expected to reach £800 millions while Indian exports to Britain will be in the range of only £450 millions, leaving a yawning trade gap of over Rs. 500 crores.

CSO: 4600/1523

INDIA

ANALYST COMMENTS ON DPRK MINISTER'S VISIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Apr 85 p 8

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 12.

The North Korean Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, Mr. Kim Yong Nam, who is paying an official visit to India, has staked his country's claim to host the next non-aligned summit conference in 1986.

During his talks with the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan, he has also sought India's support for convening a South-South economic summit in Pyongyang later this year, if possible.

Mr. Kim Yong Nam suggested that the participation of such a summit need not be confined to members of the non-aligned movement and other like-minded countries like the Nordic States and East European nations should be invited to it.

Not committed: But the Government of India has not committed itself on either of these North Korean propositions. The Indian view is that a decision on the venue of the next non-aligned summit can be taken only by the Foreign Minister's conference in Luanda, Angola, in September. As regards the South-South summit, the North Korean concept of a wider conference does not fit in with India's own ideas on the subject.

The Prime Minister politely listened to what the visiting North Korean Premier said without indicating India's response to his two suggestions. But Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan, was somewhat effusive in describing them, with his characteristic affability and good grace, as im-

portant suggestions worthy of serious consideration.

So it would not be surprising if Mr. Kim Yong Nam went back with the feeling that India was not averse to the two proposals, even if it was not enthusiastic about them. The North Korean Government might mount its diplomatic offensive at the Luanda conference for hosting the next non-aligned summit in Pyongyang on the assumption that India would go along if there was enough support for it.

But, otherwise, the North Korean Foreign Minister did not bring in the question of Korean reunification or even of increased bilateral economic relations, during these discussions. He had specifically come to press for India's support for the two summit proposals and is flying back by a special plane tomorrow to be in Pyongyang on April 15 for Mr. Kim Il Sung's birthday celebrations.

Counter-balancing move: The North Koreans who have not been happy about South Korea hosting the next Asian Games as well as the Olympics have come forward with offer to play host to the non-aligned summit and the proposed South-South conclave as a counter-balancing move to share the limelight, if not steal thunder from it.

At the last non-aligned summit in Delhi, Iraq was assured that its claim to host the next one would be given prior consideration in the hope that the Gulf war would end by that time. But as the war has now entered its fifth year with no hope of an early termination, North Korea has come forward to stake its claim.

CSO: 4600/1525

INDIA

SPADEFWORK BEGINS FOR GANDHI'S MOSCOW TRIP

Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Apr 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, April 7--Both India and the Soviet Union are attaching considerable importance to the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow next month because the future course of their special relationship would depend to a large extent on the emerging personal rapport and political understanding between the two new leaders, Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, who are going to be at the helm for a long time.

A lot of meticulous preparation is therefore being done by both sides to ensure the success of this visit in every respect, so that it becomes a major landmark in the development of Indo-Soviet relations.

The two Governments are taking all possible care to make doubly certain that everything goes off well during this visit, since any slight misunderstanding about each other's objectives or attitudes could have a tangential impact that could be quite detrimental to Indo-Soviet relations. So they are particularly anxious that the two new leaders should start off well with a measure of mutual confidence, so that they could look forward to years of continued co-operation.

No Problems

There are no problems as such between India and the Soviet Union other than the problem of keeping their friendship in a state of good repair with an enduring faith in each other's intentions. During their very first meeting at the time of Chernenko's funeral last month, Mr Gorbachev remarked that there were powerful countries, implying the U.S. and others in the West, bent on souring and straining Indo-Soviet relations, but Mr Rajiv Gandhi assured him that he was fully determined to continue the policy of close friendship with the Soviet Union.

The same assurance has been conveyed, when the Defence Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao met the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, in Moscow last week to discuss the preparations under way for Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit. The official talks and social engagements on this occasion are being planned

in such way that Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Gorbachev would be able to spend many hours together sizing up each other to dispel the lingering doubts, if any, in their minds about the policies of the two countries in the changed circumstances.

The Soviet Government is reported to be contemplating some major announcements of increased economic and technological assistance during Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to assure India that Mr Gorbachev is no less committed than his predecessors in attaching utmost importance to Indo-Soviet relations. It is also expected to make some special concessions to ease the mounting burdens of payment for defence equipment by reviewing the recent hikes in the prices of new weapon system, easing the collaboration terms for licensed production and applying the recently revised interest rates to new purchase agreements.

The Soviet Government has appreciated the gesture of India's new Prime Minister to begin his foreign tours with a visit to Moscow to make it quite clear to all concerned that he is not seeking to establish better relations with the United States at the cost of his country's well established friendship with the Soviet Union. The Soviet side, too, is equally keen on assuring India of its continued support in every respect, despite the current emphasis on developing a balanced relationship with both the super powers to safeguard the country's larger interests.

As a young and promising Prime Minister who is a product of the new technological age, the 40-year-old Mr Rajiv Gandhi does not want India to stagnate by denying itself the benefits of major scientific advances in the name of continuity and adhering blindly to the old restrictive policies that have outlived their purpose. So he is eager to seek the assistance of both the U.S. and the Soviet Union in preparing India to leap forward into the next century with self-sustaining confidence.

The emergence of the new Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, who is only 54 years old, has ended the deadening impact of gerontocracy in the Kremlin and opened up an era of greater drive and resilience in the conduct of Soviet policies consistent with the dynamics of the changing international scene. As a product of the post-revolution period and the youngest among the politburo members, he is all set to bring about a generational change in the general outlook of the Soviet Union.

The two leaders, Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Gorbachev, have much in common since they share the same urge for a rapid transformation of their societies to catch up with the lost opportunities and keep abreast of modern developments. It is, therefore, considered most important by both the Indian and Soviet Governments that they should understand each other better.

A firm reiteration of continued Soviet assistance to India for its industrial development and defence effort would help to set the right tone for Mr Rajiv Gandhi's subsequent visit to Washington, since he would be able to make it amply clear to President Reagan that the U.S. policy of arming Pakistan is not going to provide his administration with any extra leverage in exerting

political pressures or placating him with offers of technological cooperation. And any such attempt to charm or pressure him without matching changes in American attitudes would have just the opposite effect of driving India even closer to the Soviet Union by increasing the country's dependence on it.

CSO: 4600/1514

INDIA

INDIA, QATAR SIGN PACT ON INDIAN WORKERS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Apr 85 p 7

[Text]

India and Qatar on Thursday signed a labour agreement which primarily seeks to protect and safeguard the interests of Indian workers going to the Gulf nation for employment, reports UNI.

The document was signed by Labour Minister T Anjiah and his Qatari counterpart Ali Ahmed Al Ansari at the end of the latter's five-day visit to India.

There are about 40,000 Indian workers presently employed in Qatar and the agreement, the first of its kind that India has entered into with a foreign country, seeks to ensure provisions of employment contract such as salary, overtime, accommodation, transportation, medical benefits and death and disability compensation.

Every contract of an Indian worker going to Qatar for employment is to be authenticated by both the governments.

The agreement has a provision for settlement of disputes involving Indian workers and there is scope for initial conciliation by the concerned authorities in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Qatar before the dispute is taken to the labour courts.

A provision has also been made

in the agreement for setting up a joint committee consisting of representatives from both countries to review implementation of the agreement and propose amendments, if required at a later date.

The agreement will help further strengthen the friendly relations between India and Qatar and facilitate liberal recruitment of Indian manpower for employment in Qatar.

Mr Ansari said the agreement will help check the menace of unscrupulous recruiting agents. He said the two countries feel that recruitment through agents should be abolished completely and instead be done through Government agencies.

Referring to Indian workers in Qatar, he said there is no labour problem and they have earned a name because of hard work and dedication.

During his visit, Mr Ansari met various Central leaders and visited industrial training centres. Mr Anjiah had apprised him of the improvements in skills being made in India by upgrading training programmes from time to time in view of the technological changes taking place in the country.

CSO: 4600/1524

INDIA

MILITARY EXPERT ON DEFENSE MEASURES VIS-A-VIS PAKISTAN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Apr 85 p 5

[Article by P.M. Pasricha]

[Text]

While it is true that Pakistan is obtaining highly sophisticated armaments which would give her a qualitative edge over India in respect of certain specific weapon systems, in terms of quantity and overall balance *pér se* the situation is not distressing. A deeper analysis reveals that the emphasis is on weaponry for the Pak navy, air defence and air force in that order. The small quantum of armour for the army asked for is striking; only 100 tanks and 75 APCs figure in the list. On the other hand, anti-tank missiles have been catered to adequately. Two points need to be mentioned in this context: first, in our subcontinental context with a vast land mass, neither India nor Pakistan could legitimately claim a decisive victory over the other till the war on land, in which armour and mechanised troops play a significant role, is won; and secondly, in a swift surprise attack by an adversary, more often than not, the defender's air forces and the navy, in that order, are likely to come into action more rapidly than the ground forces. These two aspects taken into consideration together would suggest that Pakistan's weapons programme could, at least, be based partially on a defensive strategy though at the same time acquiring adequate capability to deter India from dealing with it from a position of overwhelming strength or exploit an opportune moment of India's acute weakness to settle scores with it.

The supply of 40 F-16 AC (by US to Pakistan) is to be completed by the end of 1985 and the navy had recently taken the lead in modernisation. Pakistan's armour holdings may, by and large, continue to remain of an older vintage during this period. All this lends substance to the argument that in the short term Pakistan is not likely to think in terms of an offensive strategy though her capability is

likely to grow progressively. It is also pertinent to add that the emphasis on Pak navy fully fits into the sea control strategy which the US is likely to adopt in any RDF or other operation which it may launch in West Asia. Among other factors, Pakistan's location adjoining the Gulf of Hormuz makes it eminently more suitable for US naval operations in the Gulf.

Some elements of its new acquisitions may well be viewed as a part of routine modernisation which every armed force needs periodically. As mentioned earlier, Pakistan has been suffering from some sense of insecurity since its traumatic experience of the 1971 war, which called into question the very basis of Pakistan, justified on the basis of the two-nation theory. Besides this, the need for modernising became imperative partially as a result of a revanchist syndrome but more importantly to restore the shattered morale of Pakistan's armed forces. The fact that the bulk of them as also of the 95,000 prisoners of war hailed from Punjab, added meaning and urgency to this need. Moreover, it was not merely a fit of vanity which goaded Bhutto to ignore history (to his ultimate peril) and plan for 'the finest fighting machine in Asia'. Pakistan was — as indeed it still is — in the process of state building as opposed to nation building in the Indian case. Unfortunately, in the process of state building, political and civil institutions have been gradually discarded in favour of the military. Accordingly, Pakistan embarked upon an ambitious plan for modernisation in the early 1970s. It drew up a fairly exhaustive shopping list of sophisticated weapons and discussed it with the US several times. Incidentally, this coincided with Bhutto's decision to go nuclear in 1972. The delay in acquisition was due to the US dragging its feet because of the then indif-

ferent state of US-Pak relations which were to plummet into lower depths till the Soviets gratuitously obliged by their action in Afghanistan. The important point to note is that the supply of a large number of weapons by the US materialising now had figured in the list made by Pakistan earlier. Enhancements and upgradations followed in the wake of the Afghan crisis and consequent upstaging of US-Pak relations.

The Afghan crisis provided a tailor-made excuse to the US to substitute Pakistan for Iran in West Asia in consonance with the Nixon Doctrine. One look at the weapon systems held by Iran during 1978-79 would highlight the similarity in sophistication of weapons being supplied to Pakistan. The US cannot simply afford to take the risk of its proxy. Pakistan, being mauled if and when she is made to join any fray in West Asia; the consequences of such a failure would be disastrous. This may also explain the recent emphasis on naval armaments and their compatibility with the RDF weaponry.

□

Much has been said of the possibility of the US military bases in Pakistan. At the outset it needs to be noted that the US has with some sophistry discarded the term "base" in favour of "facilities" in order to avoid the odium it attracts. Secondly, in the event of Pakistan being called upon to translate its strategic consensus with US into action, some use of facilities available in Pakistan is inherent in the situation. Thirdly, if it comes to the question of survival, a nation cannot be expected to forfeit its inalienable right to do all it can for the purpose whether its friends or foes like it or not. Lastly, Zia may be right, at least technically for the present, in denying vehemently that he is not going to provide any base to the US. The use of stocked material, provision of rest and recreation to the crew, the use of infrastructural facilities like ports and airfields and furthering the process of gathering intelligence could be covered under the newly coined term: 'facilities'.

The Indian defence preparedness is to be seen in the context of the broader strategic development in South and South West Asia and Pakistan's role as that of an instrument of a super-power in the area. As of now, we have or should have more reason to worry about the explicit and ominous US-Pak strategic consensus than the mere fact of US arms supply to that country. Despite serious efforts on both sides to mend Indo-US relations, the reality is that at present these can at best be regarded as two countries suffering each other with occasionally conjured up smiles and courtesies. There are numerous areas of policy where each country regards the other as a detractor of sorts if not downright obstruction. Currently, the Reagan Administration, in the prevailing national mood it represents, can only accommodate India with great reluctance. For long Indo-US relations

have been riddled with irritants and many new ones keep on surfacing ever so often despite numerous areas of shared interests, some not so superficial. In this situation, it is not difficult to deduce and even forecast that in the foreseeable future the US may continue to regard India as malevolent and consequently may not be disinclined to see India's image suffer directly or by proxy. Herein lies the real threat to us — of a US-Pak or US-Pak-China axis trying to cut us down.

It is significant in this context that, unlike in the past, the US has not only been blunt in ignoring our protestations against arming Pakistan but has openly gone along with Pakistan in backing its security concerns vis-a-vis India, some wholly conjured. The short point of the argument is that even the doves in India cannot afford to ignore the portent of likely active US support to Pakistan in the event of a war with India. This is not to say that the US would join the fray. It does not have to. Mere replenishment of war materials should upset the balance to say nothing of the probable supply of intelligence about India which by itself could be decisive in Pakistan's favour.

Gen Zia often harps upon the meagre 40 F-16s being acquired by it and he and his cronies keep on reiterating the immense size and resources of India. They would be right but for two significant factors which many defence analysts tend to ignore deliberately or otherwise depending upon whose side they are on. First the capability of these F-16s can easily be multiplied three to four times if they are backed by adequate intelligence: the Mohawk and E2C aircraft and digital topographical maps and such other paraphernalia as and when supplied by the US could make them a formidable force. Secondly, military systems which threaten pre-emptive destruction are inherently destabilising inasmuch as they undermine a nation's confidence in its deterrent capability.... This is what precisely the US has done by transferring highly sophisticated weaponry to Pakistan thus posing a classic problem for India.

□

While a case can be made out that Pakistani ruling junta should not, on rational grounds, launch an attack on India, given the current military balance, the following considerations must govern Indian defence preparedness:

- a) Instabilities and turbulences in countries like Pakistan can spill over India as they did in 1971.
- b) The Pakistani ruling junta may miscalculate the situation in India and the country's likely responses to certain contingencies as they did in 1965.

- c) There can be elements in Pakistan working to bring about a conflict with India to achieve their own parochial ends even if it meant a military disaster for Pakistan. Bhutto, it is now widely acknowledged, instigated the Pakistani military junta in 1971 towards a confrontation with India to achieve the secession of East Pakistan so that he could achieve power in the West.
- d) Pakistan may get involved in an internal turbulence in India, which may escalate into a major conflict.
- e) With the passage of time, the military balance could swing in favour of Pakistan.

In these circumstances India cannot let its guard down and permit a situation of military asymmetry vis-a-vis Pakistan.

CSO: 4600/1513

INDIA

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON BHANDARI VISIT TO PAKISTAN

Purpose of Visit

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Apr 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 3: The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, who has already visited Sri Lanka and Nepal, is leaving for Pakistan tomorrow to carry forward India's policy of improving relations with all neighbouring countries.

Apart from Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives, he proposes to visit also Afghanistan soon in pursuit of this policy of promoting better understanding in and around the sub-continent.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, who has initiated this new policy, believes that the cumulative impact of improved relations with many of these neighbouring countries would go a long way in helping to resolve seemingly intractable problems like the ethnic tangle in Sri Lanka and also help to at least slow down, if not end altogether, the ruinous arms race between India and Pakistan.

Collective grievance

The neighbouring countries seem to entertain a collective grievance against India that it is not always sensitive to their apprehensions, or responsive to their aspirations. It is fashionable for these countries to talk disparagingly of India as a difficult neighbour, a big country bent on imposing its hegemony on the smaller countries in the region.

The hardliners in Pakistan have been going one step further in spreading the canard that India has not fully reconciled itself to partition and it would not let go another opportunity to fragment it further and eventually assimilate it. The propagators of this fantastic theory may not believe in it, but they have certainly succeeded over the years in warping the minds of their people with a combination of fear and prejudice, which evokes feelings of insecurity as well as sense of revenge.

U.S. pressure

The Foreign Secretary will have to tackle these psychological aspects of the complex Indo-Pakistan relationship, before dealing with specific issues like the no-war pact. It is known in Delhi that the Pakistani military ruler, General Zia-ul-Haq and his advisers are under some sort of pressure from the U.S. to make an earnest attempt to improve relations with India, before Mr. Rajiv Gandhi goes to Washington. They have already toned down the anti-Indian campaign and been making the right noises to assure Mr. Rajiv Gandhi that they are equally desirous of better relations.

The Indian policy-makers will have to keep up a proper distinction between the superficial and substantive aspects of normalisation with Pakistan. The new Government in Islamabad with a political figure as Prime Minister, will be under some compulsion to rake up the Kashmir question, but it would not be a big hurdle to better understanding in other spheres if it is not misused as an emotional issue for whipping up passions.

More contacts

The next few weeks will witness an intensification of Indo-Pakistan contacts with the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Yakub Ali Khan, and his Foreign Secretary, Mr. Niaz Naik, visiting Delhi later this month for the Non-Aligned Coordination Bureau meeting and passing through next month on their way to the South Asian Regional Cooperation ministerial meeting in Bhutan.

The ministerial meeting of the joint commission also is due to be held after the two countries have resumed the interrupted contacts at various levels and started discussing the implementation of the decisions taken by various sub-commissions. But the missing element of mutual confidence which is so essential for resumption of a fuller dialogue cannot be restored until India is fully convinced that Pakistan is no longer assisting the extremists in Punjab in their campaign of violence.

Remarks to Islamabad, Delhi Newsmen

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

India and Pakistan have agreed to move ahead step by step in changing the past atmosphere of confrontation, tension and hostility, Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari told newsmen on his return to New Delhi on Saturday evening from his visit to Islamabad, reports PTI.

Talking to newsmen soon after his arrival, Mr Bhandari said all the leaders and people he met in Pakistan had no doubt in their minds that friendship with India was an absolute necessity for Pakistan. "This was the refrain all through", he said.

At the same time the Foreign Secretary said one should be realistic and not feel euphoric over the outcome of the visit which view was shared by Pakistan.

"They agree that now that we are going ahead, let us do it surely even if it be slowly", Mr Bhandari said.

"Our effort should be to establish contacts at people to people level and promote exchanges at different levels", Mr Bhandari said adding that such exchanges were the best insurance against war and a guarantee of friendship between the two countries.

Earlier addressing a news conference in Islamabad, Mr Bhandari said India and Pakistan had decided to end an year-long freeze in their relations and resume dialogue at various levels to develop tension-free and good neighbourly ties.

A decision to reactivate the joint ministerial commission between the two countries is likely to be announced during Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's visit to New Delhi next week to attend a nonaligned ministerial meeting on Namibia.

A joint press statement issued at the conclusion of Mr Bhandari's visit suggested that his Pakistani counterpart, Mr Niaz A Naik will visit New Delhi in the coming months to continue discussions.

Mr Bhandari said he was going back satisfied that there was a genuine desire to end the atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust and work for establishing a peaceful, cordial, cooperative and harmonious relationship on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual benefit.

The contentious issues of Pakistan's involvement in fomenting trouble in Punjab and Pakistan's nuclear ambitions were also discussed during the official talks between the two sides.

Mr Bhandari observed that the trial of Indian hijackers by Pakistan was a very positive step and thus one of India's grievances had been removed.

On the nuclear issue, Mr Bhandari said both sides made their points. He reiterated that India favoured a total disarmament and was opposed to any form of use of nuclear energy for destructive purposes.

Mr Bhandari did not agree with a questioner that India had shelved discussions on Pakistan's draft for a non-aggression pact and India's treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.

He asked the Pakistani journalist to wait for the Delhi visit of Mr Yaqub Khan.

Mr Bhandari during his stay in Pakistan called on President Ziaul Haq, Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo, Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan, Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and Finance and Planning Minister Mahbubul Haq.

Wider Cooperation Sought

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Apr 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 6.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, has returned to Delhi reasonably satisfied with the outcome of his talks in Islamabad, where he discerned a new desire on the part of the Pakistan President, Gen. Zia-ul-Haq and his colleagues for better Indo-Pakistan relations.

A brief joint statement issued at the conclusion of his three-day visit said the two countries had agreed to resume the suspended dialogue and adopt a step-by-step approach to the establishment of good neighbourly relations based on friendship, trust and confidence.

Wide ranging cooperation: The stress placed on a progressive improvement of bilateral relations clearly indicates that the new focus is not merely on a no-war pact, but on wide-ranging cooperation to usher in a more promising era of mutually beneficial bilateral relations.

It is not yet known whether Mr. Bhandari obtained any positive assurances that Pakistan would refrain from interference in India's internal affairs, especially in Punjab and Kashmir, by adhering to the Simla agreement both in letter and spirit. The recent strains, leading to a rupture of the on-going dialogue, had developed in the wake of the clandestine assistance the Zia regime provided to the Akali extremists in their campaign of violence.

Afghan angle: An important feature of the visit was the opportunity it afforded for a private discussion with Gen. Zia and his advisers on the latest Pakistani stand on Afghanistan, since Mr. Bhandari is to go to Kabul on April 12, on the next leg of his visits to the capitals of all neighbouring countries in pursuance of India's policy of improving relations with all. These informal and unpublicised exchanges would enable India to play a helpful role in preparing the ground for a direct dialogue between Islamabad and Kabul, if it is at all possible in the present circumstances.

The visit of Mr. Bhandari to Kabul has acquired special importance since it is taking place on the eve of the impending resumption of the interrupted efforts of the U.N. Secretary-General's special representative, Mr. Diego Cordovez, to encourage and enable Pakistan and Afghanistan to engage in an indirect dialogue through him.

Comprehensive brief: Mr. Bhandari has a comprehensive brief from the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to discuss all aspects of the Afghan problem with its President, Mr. Babrak Karmal, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Sultan Ali Kishtmand, in the light of his talks in Islamabad. The Afghan Foreign Minister, who will be in Delhi a week later for the ministerial meeting of the non-aligned coordination bureau, would be able to offer further elucidations of his Government's attitude, if India is interested in carrying forward these exchanges.

Mr. Bhandari's talks in Islamabad on the Afghan question, would also be useful during Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's discussions with Soviet leaders in Moscow next month on developments in and around the Indian sub-continent. Similarly, the Prime Minister would be able to speak with fuller knowledge of the latest thinking of the Karmal regime, when he goes to Washington in June for talks with the U.S. President, Mr. Ronald Reagan.

Scope for quiet role: There is very little India can do by itself to persuade the Soviet Union to pull out its troops from Afghanistan. But it can play a role behind the scenes in ascertaining the private attitudes of both the Karmal and Zia regimes on the possibilities of an understanding between them that would enable Moscow to review its own position.

This aspect of Mr. Bhandari's trip has been receiving equal attention in diplomatic circles here. The widely shared feeling in both the American and Soviet camps here is that an ability to play even a marginal role in resolving the Afghan tangle would enhance India's own capacity in dealing with Pakistan and also enhance its influence with both Moscow and Washington.

Three Assurances Sought

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 10 Apr 85 p 1

[Article by Rita Manchanda]

[Text]

New Delhi, April 9: India has sought three assurances from Pakistan as central to the resumption of a dialogue. The foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, during his visit to Islamabad last week impressed upon President Zia-ul Haq India's concern over Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, its induction of sophisticated weapons and its interference in this country's internal affairs.

Mr Bhandari referred to reports about Pakistan's pursuit of nuclear weapons capability and said these reports were not based on Indian intelligence but international sources. Gen. Zia is said to have once again proposed bilateral monitoring of each other's nuclear facilities, but Indian policymakers view the proposal as a political

canard. Moreover, "monitoring by Pakistan might enable hostile outside forces to have access to India's nuclear secrets."

Referring to the induction of sophisticated weapons into Pakistan, Mr Bhandari is understood to have said that India had noted with concern that many of these weapons could not possibly be used against a landlocked neighbour (Afghanistan), as justified by Pakistan.

The foreign secretary also drew Gen. Zia's attention to Pakistan's interference in Punjab. In an interview with Toronto Star, Gen. Zia had said "Pakistan will never close its borders to the Sikhs because Pakistan must carry out its obligations as the guardian of Sikh holy places."

Mr Bhandari also referred to Gen. Zia's remark in the same interview that India's attitude

towards its Muslims was "very unsympathetic."

On his return last Saturday, Mr Bhandari conveyed to the government that there was great appreciation of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's good neighbourly initiative. However, it is evident from New Delhi's emphasis on reactivating the joint commission rather than resuming the political dialogue on a no-war pact or a friendship treaty that it is carefully watching whether Pakistan's sincerity will go beyond political rhetoric to concrete progress in trade, culture and travel.

The dates of the joint commission will be finalised when the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahebzada Yaqub Khan, comes to India next week for the Namibia meeting. It is expected to take place in late May.

Step-by-Step Improvement

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Apr 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 10.

A new development in Indo-Pakistan relations is that a no-war pact, or even a more comprehensive treaty of friendship, are no longer being considered a starting point for better understanding and cooperation, but only as a culmination of a painstaking process of normalisation.

The two countries are, therefore, making no effort at all to come to grips at this stage with the intractable question of a binding mutual commitment not to grant any bases to other powers under whatever pretext. The Indian insistence on such a solemn commitment as part of a treaty obligation was resisted by Pakistan in the past as an encroachment on its sovereignty, although it had no intention of leasing bases to any foreign power, not even the United States with which it had signed a mutual security pact. The Zia régime took the stand that it could not be expected to accept a constraint that no other non-aligned country was asked to do so without compromising its status as an independent nation.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, went to Islamabad with the brief not to raise the question of a no-war pact or a friendship treaty, unless the Pakistan Government brought up the issue during discussions. It was in pursuance of this policy that he said on his arrival in Lahore: "A no-war pact will not hold, nor will a treaty of friendship endure unless these are backed and supported by the people of the two countries."

The current emphasis, therefore, is on a step-by-step improvement of the complex relations by dispelling distrust and restoring some degree of national confidence. The two sides have accordingly decided to start off with a reactivation of the joint commission and its various sub-commissions to provide a framework for increasing a diversifying contacts in different spheres.

The intention is to move forward cautiously instead of making ambitious moves that might lead to an abrupt anti-climax once again in the absence of any meaningful progress in the im-

provement of relations. It is for this reason that Mr. Bhandari scrupulously avoided making any flamboyant promises of an early breakthrough in Indo-Pakistan relations.

Interesting factor

An interesting factor that emerged from these exchanges was that now Pakistan wants India to play a role in resolving the Afghan tangle, although it is difficult to discern whether the Zia regime would like to see this country exercise a restraining influence on Moscow or spoil its relations with the Soviet Union in the bargain.

It is strange that Pakistan has suddenly stopped talking of the no-war pact and placing greater emphasis on "widening and strengthening the areas of cooperation" in many fields to generate an atmosphere of harmony and trust. A year ago the main thrust of the Pakistani concept of normalisation was on a non-aggression agreement, as though it was going to end all distrust overnight and open up a new era of fruitful cooperation.

CSO: 4600/1512

INDIA

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER

Agreements Reached

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

India and Mauritius have agreed to enlarge their bilateral trade and economic relations and seriously consider the possibilities of greater flow of Indian investment into the island-State.

The Indo-Mauritian Joint Economic Commission is to meet in New Delhi in June to identify specific areas and consider other modalities for expanding the bilateral cooperation.

To begin with India has extended a credit of Rs 10 crore to Mauritius and also provide a food grant of 10,000 tonnes of wheat flour. Half the credit will be on Government to Government basis, and the balance of Rs five crore will be extended by the EXIM Bank.

The agreements were the direct off-shoot of the three-day official visit to India by Mauritian Premier Anerood Jugnauth, who before departing for Bombay en-route home on Thursday described his talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and other Indian leaders as "very successful and constructive".

While thanking India for its continued support and assistance in the socio-economic development of Mauritius, Mr Jugnauth in a brief chat with newsmen said his visit had also reinforced the consensus between the two countries on all international issues.

An official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry later told newsmen that India attached great importance to Mauritius and had a sustained, strong and abiding interest in the welfare of the island's people.

Though Mr Jugnauth and Mr Gandhi during their discussion made a tour de horizon of the international and regional affairs, the accent of the visit clearly was on bilateral relations and cooperation. Mr Jugnauth in fact commented that his country would continue to receive similar aid from India as during the stewardship of Mrs Gandhi. "Indeed, it is being increased under the new Prime Minister."

As a part of the efforts to boost bilateral cooperation, the two sides have agreed to examine a proposal for setting up a joint shipping service, which will promote regular contact and increase two-way trade.

Mauritius has also expressed keen interest in attracting greater flow of Indian investment and in launching joint ventures. On its part it has shown willingness to provide necessary incentives, and the Indian businessmen could show greater interest and discuss with Mauritian authorities the constraints, problems or bottlenecks, an official spokesman said. A delegation of the India Investment Centre will visit Port Louis shortly, he added.

Among other measures of assistance to Mauritius, India has agreed to increase by Rs 35 lakh the funds it has granted for setting up the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Hospital, for which about Rs two crore have already been given. India has also agreed to provide Rs 90 lakh for a proposed eye hospital and construct a judicial complex in Mauritius.

HINDU Analyst's Report

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Apr 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 4.

The dual role of India as a recipient of foreign aid and also a donor nation assisting other developing countries is adequately reflected in the continued assistance it is providing to Mauritius in many spheres.

The Prime Minister of this Indian Ocean Island, Mr. Anerood Jugnauth, concluded his official visit to India today immensely satisfied with the outcome of his discussions in Delhi.

Apart from offering a fresh credit of Rs. 10 crores, in addition to a similar amount offered in 1983, India has agreed to give Mauritius 10,000 tonnes of wheat flour to help ease the food situation in the island. Though Mauritius has one of the highest standards of living among the member countries of the Organisation of African Unity, it has to pay heavily for its food imports with its foreign earnings from sugar exports and foreign tourism.

The Government of India has also agreed to increase scholarships for Mauritian students in Indian universities from 25 to 100 to help them acquire higher education in medicine, engineering, financial management and public administration. There are many Mauritian students other than these scholarship holders studying in Indian institutions at their own expense, which is only a fraction of what they would have to pay for similar training in Europe or the United States.

The Indian-aided Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital for which India has already given Rs. 2 crores will get an extra grant of Rs. 35 lakhs for buying additional equipment. India will also provide Rs. 90 lakhs for an eye hospital, besides building a judicial complex on the island for imparting legal education.

There is no other country in Asia or Africa which is receiving such wide-ranging assistance from India as Mauritius, largely because of its filial bonds with this country besides its geopolitical importance. It is noteworthy that a close and cordial relationship with India is the very basis of this distant Indian Ocean Island's foreign policy.

During his brief visit, Mr. Jugnauth has done all that he could to assure all concerned that Mauritius will not turn to any other country for financial or technical assistance, unless India is not in a position to help it. He has offered enough incentives to Indian entrepreneurs to set up medium industries in Mauritius with full facilities for remittances of profits abroad and capital repatriation in due course.

The Government of India has also agreed to examine a proposal for setting up a joint shipping service to boost two-way trade. There are already concessional air fares between the two countries to encourage tourism.

The Mauritian Government has also been seeking Indian assistance in training its defence personnel and administrative services.

UNI & PTI report:

Mr. Jugnauth was given a warm and ceremonial send off when he left aboard a special Indian Air Force jet for Bombay enroute to Port Louis. He took the salute and inspected an Inter-Services guard of honour. The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and his Cabinet colleagues, including Mr. V. P. Singh, Mr. Vasant Sathe, Mr. H. K. L. Bhagat and Mr. Khursheed Alam Khan saw off the visiting dignitary.

CSO: 4600/1510

INDIA

REPORT ON DEFENSE MINISTER'S ACTIVITIES IN MOSCOW

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

Moscow, April 4.—India's Defence Minister P V Narasimha Rao has said that the Indo-Soviet talks held during his visit, were very useful.

As a result of his visit, defence co-operation between India and the Soviet Union would be further strengthened, he added.

The talks covered issues like the Indian Ocean, the situation in Afghanistan, the arming of Pakistan and the resultant arms race in the region.

The Soviet Union agreed with the Indian view that the Indian Ocean area should be turned into a zone of peace.

Mr Rao also visited some of the defence establishments in the Soviet Union. At the naval academy in Leningrad and an air force base in Moscow, Mr Rao along with other members of the delegation witnessed demonstration flights of the Soviet MI-17 helicopter, MI-26 helicopter, IL-76 transport plane, and the most sophisticated advanced technology combat aircraft (ATCA), a match to the sophisticated fighters Pakistan has received from the US.

During his visit to the naval academy, Mr Rao watched the electronic war games the trainee officers play there. Some Indian Army and naval officers are also undergoing training here.

India is already considering various plans for the strengthening of the Indian Navy during the next Plan period. Once the plans are finalised, India will look how much could be done by its own efforts and where to look for collaboration taking into account that the Soviets have played in the past an important role in the modernisation of the Indian Navy.

Following the detailed inspection of performances of the Soviet equipment, the Indian experts will now make a detailed evaluation for their purchase and manufacture.

CSO: 4600/1510

INDIA

NO DECISION ON HANDLING OF SOVIET FIGHTER PLANE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Apr 85 p 1

[Article by Subhash Chakravarti]

[Text] New Delhi, April 5--India has yet to decide whether to establish manufacturing facilities for the Soviet-made advanced combat aircraft or to buy as a short-term measure at least two squadrons off the shelf.

The terms for outright purchase or manufacturing the most advanced futuristic Soviet military aircraft in the MiG family have also to be negotiated.

The defence minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao's talks in Moscow this week strengthened the process for negotiations, but a final decision on the induction of this plane, which is yet to be given a serial number as a follow up of MiG 27 is still to be made. A report on Mr Rao's negotiations with the Soviet defence minister, Marshal Serguei Sekokov, has already been submitted to the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

There seems to be some reservations about making a final announcement about this important defence co-operation with the Soviet Union prior to Mr Gandhi's visit to Moscow next month.

More Than a Match

There is no reservation on the Soviet side to offer facilities for manufacturing or selling at least two squadrons of the planes which are supposed to be more than a match for the American built F-16, now being used by the Pakistan Air Force.

Indications are that the Indian evaluation on the advantage of establishing manufacturing facilities as a long-term commitment or to buy some pieces as a short-term measure, perhaps to keep the option wide, is likely to take time.

Mr Rao is likely to make a brief statement on his talks in Moscow in Parliament next week.

In either a short or long-term agreement, the Soviet Union is to gain a great deal in retrieving its lost ground in the Indian military hardware business. The Soviet Union lost a great deal since India started pursuing a policy of diversification of sources of defence purchases.

Mrs Indira Gandhi, on her return to power in 1980, approved an earlier decision to buy Jaguar planes from Britain. This was followed up by purchase of Mirage 2000 from France. The Soviet share in the Indian armament business, particularly in airforce and navy, receded perceptibility as a result of the introduction of the policy of diversification of purchase.

While Britain and France got a major share in fighter-bomber planes and helicopters, including Sea Eagle naval planes from Britain, West Germany replaced the Soviet Union as a supplier of submarines. Again, West European countries, Britain, Sweden, Germany and Italy are competing with each other to sell an advanced field gun to India.

Mr Rao's talks in Moscow are likely to make a new beginning in India's defence co-operation with the Soviet Union.

CSO: 4600/1510

INDIA

INDO-SOVIET PROTOCOL ON STUDY OF STRATOSPHERE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Apr 85 p 8

[Text]

India and the Soviet Union on Thursday signed a protocol for continued study of the stratosphere and the upper atmosphere during 1985-86, reports UNI.

The protocol was initialised by Mr N V Kozlov, head of the Soviet State Committee for Hydro-Meteorology, and by Professor P D Bhavsar, chairman of the remote sensing area studies division at the Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad.

The protocol is the result of talks held at Bangalore recently by the Indo-Soviet joint working group. The group had discussed the results of experiments conducted so far and chalked out future cooperation plans.

A meeting will be held next September in the Soviet Union as part of the studies, which include meteorology.

Mr Kozlov said the new protocol would lead to concentration on research to benefit the people.

Mr Bhavsar said a large number of Indian Scientific organisation will be involved in the experiments. These include the Indian Space Research

Organisation (ISRO), the Indian Meteorology Department, the National Physical Laboratory, the Physical Research Laboratory, and the Andhra Pradesh University.

Referring to the costs involved, he said both sides will bear the expenses in their respective countries. There will be no exchange of funds.

Professor Bhavsar said there was a programme at present under which Soviet Union was to provide India with equipment for 500 rockets to be launched from the Thumba equatorial station by 1988.

India and the Soviet Union began cooperation in this field in 1963 when the Thumba station was set up with Soviet, American and French help.

The Programmes include the Monex (the Monsoon Experiment Programme), which is aimed at studying the behaviour of the monsoons. This will also help weather forecasting. Rockets are launched from a site in the Soviet Union and Thumba, and results of the experiments exchanged.

CSO: 4600/1510

INDIA

PLANS TO DIVERSIFY SOVIET-INDIAN TRADE UNDERWAY

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 5 Apr 85 p 8

[Text]

Moscow, April 4 (PTI): A top Soviet foreign trade official has said an attempt will be made to diversify Indo-Soviet trade under a long-term programme for 1986-1990. The plan is being worked out now.

Addressing a foreign trade ministry press conference here yesterday, Mr Mikhail Kiselev said this would be a major issue of negotiations between the two countries and would figure at the inter-governmental commission meeting here this month.

Mr Kiselev, chief of the ministry's administration for trade with Asian countries, said specific proposals included an increase in the percentage of engineering products in Soviet imports from India and of Soviet machinery in Indian imports.

Mr Kiselev was answering a question about the prospects of an increase in the share of India in the global trade of the Soviet

Union. While bilateral trade increased from 0.96 billion roubles in 1975 to 2.8 billion roubles in 1984, trade with India now represented only two per cent of the Soviet Union's global trade.

Mr Kiselev noted that India was the biggest trade partner of the Soviet Union among the developing countries outside the orbit of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and that trade had increased by 10 per cent annually in the recent past. This should be maintained and enhanced, he observed.

Mr Gennady Zhuravlyov, first deputy minister of foreign trade, earlier told the press conference that the Soviet Union would continue to expand mutually beneficial relations with developing countries and contribute to the restructuring of the international economic order on a just basis.

CSO: 4600/1508

INDIA

REPORTAGE ON INDIAN RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH

Dispute at JRC Meeting

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Apr 85 p 4

[Text] Belonia, April 4--All BSF outposts on the 4-km Amjadnagar-Belonia stretch along Tripura's international boundary with Bangladesh have been put on maximum alert following reports of "massive" build-up by Bangladesh Rifles and Army units in the area, reports PTI quoting officials.

A correspondent who toured the area in Tripura's South District found construction of the controversial Muhuri river project in full swing under protective cover of BDR detachments after the Joint Rivers Commission's (Tripura-Assam sector) local-level meeting ended inconclusively here yesterday.

Officials said the Bangladesh delegation at the JRC meeting had refused to accede to India's request of suspending work on the project pending final agreement between the two countries on the issue.

Earlier, the Indian officials objected to Bangladesh's stand on the ground that it was "a breach of trust to buy time for the project's completion before the monsoon."

Sources said the Bangladesh delegation had earlier agreed to stop work on the project pending final decision at a higher-level conference. The Indian side reportedly pointed out that Bangladesh was also violating the 1979 JRC decision, restricting revetment work to a 75-ft distance from the toe of the river's embankment. A joint inspection of the project yesterday revealed that the span of revetment undertaken by Bangladesh on the Muhuri was "far in excess of the agreed and specified distance and was thus unauthorized."

The Indian officials at the meeting, sources said, also pointed out that embankment would restrict the hydrological flow and divert the Muhuri towards the Indian side, posing a threat to 60.8-acre Indian "char" land and endangering the Belonia town protection embankment along the "char."

The extension and the strengthening of the solid spurs on the Muhuri embankment by Bangladesh had aggravated the problem, they said.

The Bangladesh officials at the meeting, on the other hand, said the embankment construction was aimed at stabilizing the right bank of the Muhuri in Bangladesh opposite Belonia in accordance with the 1974 India-Bangladesh agreement on land demarcation. They denied that work on the solid spurs had been undertaken by Bangladesh after 1979.

According to them, the agreed revetment distance of 75 feet applied only to the Indian embankment at Mafizmianghat in south Tripura and could not be accepted as a principle.

Sources said the Indian side rejected Bangladesh's contention that the 500-yard low embankment constructed by India at Amjadnagar in south Tripura was of strategic importance, adding that the two countries had a small artificial boundary on the zero line for limited flood protection purpose and that the Indian embankment had no defence orientation.

Indian labourers, meanwhile, have complained that they had been threatened by the BDR if they continued to work along the border "in defiance of their orders."

UNI adds: The Left Front Government in Tripura has urged the Centre to intervene and take up the issue with Bangladesh at a higher level.

It said the construction of the embankment was in violation of the agreement between the two countries.

More Border Fencing Planned

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Apr 85 p 9

[Text] Shillong, April 4--The Centre has decided to erect a barbed-wire fence to prevent the influx of Chakmas into the Union Territory from the adjoining Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

Mizoram has endorsed the proposal. The security forces, including the BSF and the State police, have been alerted. The Centre has been moved to constitute tribunals for detecting and deporting foreigners.

Prior to the Assembly elections in Mizoram last year the Lieutenant-Governor had warned all Chakma villages against harbouring or sheltering Chakma immigrants. Wherever the growth was disproportionate, the electoral rolls would be used to detect aliens and deport them.

Army sources reported an influx of Chakmas, mostly women and children in the Demagiri sector because of disturbances in the Hill Tracts. Some had bullet injuries. About 700 were pushed back.

Considering the increasing role of the police in countering insurgency and preventing the influx, Aizawl has submitted a Rs 2-crore scheme to modernize the force over five years. A part from improving transport and wireless

communication as well as forensic facilities, the strength of the Miz Armed Police will be increased and new police stations set up.

The Christian Mizos do not welcome the Buddhist Chakmas in their midst. Even before the Chakma influx became an election issue, the former Mizoram Chief Minister, Brigadier Sailo, had warned the Chief Election Commissioner, Mr R.K. Trivedi, that if the influx continued the Chakmas encouraged by Dhaka, might claim the encroached land.

Before Independence, about 3,000 Chakmas were allowed to settle in Mizo villages subject to the approval of the hereditary chiefs. But after 1947, the influx increased due to religious persecution in the Hill Tracts and an open border. Following the 1964 disturbances, Chakma refugees were resettled on the Arunachal-Assam border in the Tirap foothills and they became a major irritant for Arunachal Pradesh.

Brigadier Sailo says the creation of a Chakma district will be a blunder. According to some sources, the number of Chakmas in Mizoram is over 30,000.

Allegations that the once dominant Mizos have been reduced to a minority in the Chawngte subdivision, and in certain areas of Demagiri or Tlabung and Tuipulbari are perhaps exaggerated. According to Chakma leaders, the district council has no jurisdiction over most of the Chakma-inhabited areas only a portion of the Pawi-Lakher region is included.

Complaint About Farakka Accord

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 2 Apr 85 p 4

[Text]

Calcutta, April 1: The West Bengal government has told the Centre that the prevailing arrangement for the sharing of Ganga waters at Farakka between India and Bangladesh "have so far proved very detrimental to the Calcutta port" with Bangladesh receiving more than 60 per cent of the flow.

'Mr Nani Bhattacharya, state irrigation minister, in a memorandum submitted to the Union irrigation minister on March 26, said, "it appears that the Bangladesh government has moved the Government of India for continuation of the sharing arrangements on a long-term basis." He urged the Centre to insist that 40,000 cusecs must flow to the

Calcutta port from the Ganga at Farakka throughout the year, including the lean season from January to May.

The memorandum pointed out that the Bangladesh demand for a bigger share of the Teesta water during the dry season had caused serious concern among the people of West Bengal. "For every cusec of water released from the river Teesta to Bangladesh during the non-monsoon period, the state may lose 100 tonnes of rabi crops. This means loss of 200 tonnes of food grains valued at Rs 5 crores per annum for every cusec of water released to Bangladesh."

The memorandum described

the ad hoc formula agreed to by the Joint River Commission on Teesta waters as "harmful to and against the interest of West Bengal." The state should receive at least 80 per cent of the flow during the dry season, it said.

The memorandum also called for permanent anti-erosion measures on the banks of the Ganga in Malda and Murshidabad districts. It urged the Centre to sanction the Subarnarekha barrage project without any further delay as the scheme is already in the pipeline for World Bank aid. It felt that the Centre should also immediately clear the scheme for modernisation of the Kangsabati project.

CSO: 4600/1509

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS ON RAJIV LONDON TELEVISION INTERVIEW

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Apr 85 p 9

[Text] London, April 10 (PTI)--Emphasising that the "ball is really in their court," the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has asked Akali leaders to respond to the steps taken by the government to find a solution to the Punjab problem.

So far the government had not got any response from them, he said, adding, "we not even know what they are thinking, apart from what they are saying. But officially they have not responded in any way."

"The government had taken quite a few steps" and intended to take more. Many of the Akali leaders had been released, an "economic package" had been given to Punjab and "we have made it known in parliament and in other places that we are amenable to certain of their demands (and) to what extent we are willing to go. And the ball is really in their court. They must respond now." He told Mr Donald Trelford, editor of "Observer" newspaper in an interview telecast here tonight on "Channel Four."

New Demands

Asked what sort of response he was looking from Akali leaders, Mr Gandhi replied that they had raised some new demands in addition to old ones. The position on the earlier demands of water, of Chandigarh and of certain territorial areas is very clear.

Mrs Indira Gandhi had made a broadcast in June last year in which she had very clearly specified what the government was willing to do, he said.

Denying that the government was resisting the idea of an inquiry, Mr Gandhi told interviewer that the government would like "them (Akali leaders) to come forward and say exactly what they want now."

Mr Gandhi said Sikhs play an important role in India's development and stressed that they were very much a part of the country. "They have been a part of India ever since Sikhism was born in India. They fought for our integrity, for our unity. They fought for our independence. And they have helped develop India."

Asked if he felt that history would judge the army action at golden temple as a mistake or something that was inevitable in the circumstances of the time, Mr Gandhi replied, "Well, it is very difficult to say what history will see things as. But I think that it will see it as an action done at the right time."

When Mr Trelford asked if Sikhs from abroad were involved in the assassination of his mother, he replied, "You know these things are very difficult to quantify. It is not easy in these sorts of cases. It is not just a case of who actually pulls the trigger but also of everyone involved behind the scenes in raising a certain temperature, raising a certain mood amongst the people. So that way, most certainly they were involved."

Explaining his "technocratic vision" of India's future, Mr Gandhi said it meant thinking in a new way. "We have missed the industrial revolution. We have never been able to catch up. Nor has any other country that missed it. And we cannot afford to miss the electronic or computer revolution that is taking place now," he added.

Further he said he had considered refusing to take over as prime minister following the assassination of his mother but ultimately felt he had to agree in view of the circumstances.

"I discussed it with my wife. And, well there really seemed no option under the circumstances. Tension could already be sensed."

Mr Trelford remarked it has been suggested that his wife's commitment to political life is not very great. "Is this a fair comment or just wild speculation?"

Mr Gandhi: "I think it is a fair comment. But she is adapting very well, she is taking it well."

CSO: 4600/1517

24 May 1985

INDIA

GANDHI INTERVIEW WITH MADRAS MAGAZINE REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Apr 85 p 6

[Text]

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has said that his concept of 'continuity and change' to take India into the 21st century means preserving 'the Indianess that we have' and absorbing positive attitudes in various areas from all over the world, reports PTI.

In ideological and political terms, he would like to be labelled in the same way as the former Prime Ministers, his mother and grandfather — 'left of centre'.

The Prime Minister made these remarks in an interview to Frontline, news magazine from Madras, covering several subjects including the role of the Opposition, the Government's economic programme, relations with neighbours and super powers and the problem of Sri Lankan Tamils.

One of the questions from the interviewer, N Ram, in the context of the Prime Minister's forthcoming visits to the Soviet Union and the United States was whether there was need for 'reorienting or rebalancing India's relationship' with them.

The Prime Minister dealt with Indo-USSR and Indo-US relations separately and replied: "Let's start with the Soviet Union because we have had the strongest relationship with them. I see our relationship, well, changing for the better. And it is an old relationship, old friendship — that has been tested during times of tension, during periods when we needed help and they have stood by us."

"We would like to improve relations very much with the United States. But some of the policies with regard to Pakistan make it difficult for us to go beyond a point. Their nuclear programme, their weapons, this would be the major constraint on that."

"We shall like to improve relations with the US and I am sure cultural and other friendly ties will improve with the festival that is starting now and other programmes that we have got."

"We would like a lot of technology from the US and we have concluded a memorandum of understanding, which is a first step. Hopefully with these confidence-building steps from both sides, we will be able to understand each other better — and we get our point across."

No complaints: Replying to questions about the role of the Opposition, Mr Gandhi said he was happy with the individual leaders of the Opposition. "I have got no complaints against them. We have said all sorts of things during the election. That is all over and I have met them after that and we have talked about things. And I think most of them are positive . . . I am not talking of support for the Congress. I am talking of the thinking on national issues."

Another aspect, he said, was that "the Opposition in the Lok Sabha is almost non-existent — which is very good for us, but in a way it is not so good for us. It is good to have an Opposition and I hope they will not be swamped by numbers . . . and they will raise issues in a proper manner, point out where we go wrong — and really contribute positively towards our parliamentary system".

Public sector report soon: Replying to a question on the public sector, Mr Gandhi pointed out that a detailed study had been undertaken on the functioning of the public sector by Dr Arjun Sen Gupta, economist and former special secretary in the Prime Minister's office.

"We are almost ready with it. Within the next few days or weeks, hopefully, it should be out", the Prime Minister said.

He added: "Wastage is there, not only in the public sector, but right down the line. In Government, everywhere there is tremendous wastage. In private industry, there is sickness. We have got to cut all this down. And we are trying to see how it can be done. It is not going to be easy".

About the problem of Sri Lankan Tamils, the Prime Minister said he could not at this stage divulge everything about the discussions held with the Sri Lankan Government. He added: "Really, we must first consider the long-term interest of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. A situation must not come about where they will have a problem over a 15-year period or a 20-year period. That must be kept in mind by everyone — by Sri Lanka, by us, by the Tamils in India, and of course the Tamils in Sri Lanka, the refugees who are with us now. At the same time we have to see that the atrocities which are being committed by the security forces in Sri Lanka — not totally under Government control — must stop. We have to see that an atmosphere is created where the refugees can go back, we have got almost a lakh now, may be 90,000".

CSO: 4600/1520

INDIA

ANALYST NOTES DELAY IN AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Apr 85 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 2.

There has been an inexplicable delay not only in filling some important vacancies in the Central Cabinet, but also in finalising several senior appointments which include the Governorship of Maharashtra, Ambassador to the Soviet Union and High Commissioner to Britain.

Though such inordinate delay has occurred in the past, some surprise is being expressed in political circles over the present procrastination which is quite contrary to the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's style of taking quick decisions.

Latif's new post: The present Governor of Maharashtra, Air Chief Marshal (retd.) I. H. Latif, is due to relinquish his post by the middle of this month to take charge of his new assignment as Ambassador to France. He would need at least a few weeks to familiarise himself with the political scene in Paris and prepare for the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit.

A few other diplomatic appointments have been finalised after making some changes to accommodate the personal preferences of those who have been chosen for these assignments. These include the appointment of the former Air Chief, Air Chief Marshal Dilbagh Singh, as Ambassador to Brazil and the former Navy Chief, Admiral O. S. Dawson, as High Commissioner to New Zealand.

The present Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. K. D. Sharma, who will be succeeded shortly by Mr. S. K. Singh, now Ambassador to Austria, goes as Ambassador to Spain in place of Dr.

I. P. Singh who has been moved to Rangoon. The Ambassador to Egypt, Mr. Alfred Goncalves, is being shifted to Vienna and his place in Cairo taken by Mr. S. K. Bhutani, who is an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs at present.

Another Additional Secretary, Mr. J. C. Ajmani, is being posted as Ambassador to Argentina, and the Ambassador to Mexico, Mr. N. P. Jain, is due to be brought back to the Ministry of External Affairs on promotion as a full Secretary to the Government.

London post vacant: But there is no decision yet about Moscow and London, although several names continue to be mentioned for these key appointments. The Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Dr. Nurul Hassan, is due to complete his two-year tenure and return home after the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow next month. The post in London has been vacant for the last several months following the resignation of Mr. Prakash Mehrotra.

The Government has not yet decided on who should take the place of Mr. J. N. Dixit, in Kabul when he moves to Colombo shortly as High Commissioner to Sri Lanka in place of Mr. S. J. S. Chhatwal who goes to Ottawa.

The Prime Minister has been looking around for some prominent political figures for top diplomatic assignments, but the abler ones among those available are not too keen on quitting active politics and accepting these posts abroad for which they are not temperamentally suited. They are equally averse to the idea of governorships except in the case of some prestigious States.

CSO: 4600/1507

INDIA

OUTCOME OF JANATA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Apr 85 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 31--The national executive of the Janata party today called for a "meaningful initiative" by the government and for a "positive response" from the Akali Dal to settle the Punjab issue.

Winding up two days of discussions, the executive suggested, among other things, that a national consensus be evolved on the reservation controversy.

A lengthy political resolution, apart from its familiar accusation that the ruling party was to blame for all that ails the country, voiced concern on the rise of chauvinism and fundamentalism.

In the view of the Janata Party, "all these problems, whether Assam, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir or the issue of Union-state relations call for a value frame of reference which is based on pluralism, acceptance of unity in diversity and catholicity and breadth of a secular outlook."

"These values were nurtured during the freedom struggle and to the extent that the new leadership has failed to live up to them or is ignorant about them, it has done damage to India's cherished traditions," the political resolution noted.

Reviewing elections, the executive held that the massive victory of the Congress in the parliamentary poll could not have been achieved in normal and ordinary circumstances. The new leadership of the ruling party "unscrupulously traded on a national tragedy, heightened people's apprehensions about the nation's integrity, exploited communal and caste sentiments and resorted not only to induction of black money in a massive manner but put the audio-visual public media to the grossest possible abuse," it charged.

Explaining support to the anti-defection law, the executive cautioned that not unless there are electoral reforms on the basis of recommendations made by various committees that have gone into this matter since the Tarkunde committee gave its report, will it be possible to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

The party's viewpoints on other issues were: It is urgent that conditions conducive to holding of elections in Assam are created at an early date;

In the case of Punjab, the executive called upon the government to release all political detenus expeditiously and resume negotiations with the Akali Dal without any pre-conditions on either side on the basic issues.

It reiterated its commitment to the principle of reservation in favour of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, but at the same time pleaded for meaningful dialogue for the evolution of a national consensus on elimination of distortions, contradictions and shortfalls that have surfaced in the process of implementation; implementation of the mandal commission report.

In a separate resolution on Sri Lanka, the executive called upon the government to mobilise world opinion against this genocide and against supply of arms and expertise to Sri Lanka and to take all possible steps necessary for protecting the life and honour and safeguarding the rights of the Tamil community.

CSO: 4600/1504

INDIA

GANDHI OPENS NONALIGNED MEET ON ROLE OF WOMEN

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Apr 85 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 10--Mr Rajiv Gandhi called on the Non-Aligned countries to fight for the rights of women as strongly as they fought against imperialism, colonialism and racism.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating here the two-day Ministerial conference of Non-Aligned and other developing countries on the role of women in development. Hosted by India, this conference, which is the first of its kind to be held on the issue of women's development, follows the March 1983 Non-Aligned summit where it was suggested that such a meeting be held prior to the 1985 United Nations world conference on Women in Nairobi in July, in all 43 countries have confirmed their participation at this conference.

Subjugation

The subjugation of a country or an individual is very similar, said the Prime Minister. The struggle for the uplift of women is no different from the fight of the Non-Aligned countries for the uplift of the developing countries, he said.

Although women have risen to the highest levels of sacrifice, the historical, social and cultural domination over women continues, the Prime Minister said.

But half the talent and energy in our society cannot be ignored, said Mr Gandhi. Although women's contribution to humanity through history in the workplace in society and at home is no less than man's, yet she is not provided with adequate opportunities in education and employment. Women's rights to education, employment, growth and development must be built and facilities provided so that she has full freedom of action and movement.

In developing countries, women are active in all fields. They have risen to prominent places in the political field. Yet at the lower level, she is not given enough freedom of movement and help to rise above the discrimination of a 1,000 years of a male-dominated society, he said.

The fight for equality for women must permeate through the hearts of our people, the Prime Minister said. Although the U.N. decade has focused on the fight for equality for women, this has to be built into our society.

The key factor is education, said the Prime Minister. India has introduced free education for girls up to high school. Through special programmes and special monitoring to see how women progress through these programmes and through measures like family courts to prevent delays, India is taking many steps in this direction. But it is society which has to change, the Prime Minister stressed.

Recalling the words of the late Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, he said that she had often stated that although it was good to see women in top positions at the grass roots and at the daily level discrimination against women must be removed. Women's fight up every rung of ladder has to be made easy.

CSO: 4600/1518

INDIA

GOVERNMENT CONCEDES TO MAJOR AKALI DAL DEMANDS

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 11.

In a major goodwill gesture to the Akali Dal, the Centre today announced an inquiry into the Delhi riots in the wake of Indira Gandhi's assassination, release of several detainees and lifting of the ban on the All-India Sikh Students Federation. The inquiry will be held by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court and will cover "allegations in regard to the incidents of organised violence in Delhi."

The decisions were announced by the Union Home Minister, Mr. S. B. Chavan, in the Lok Sabha in the evening, after the Political Affairs Committee of the Cabinet reviewed the Punjab situation for the fourth time in three days. Also involved in the consultations was the State Governor, Mr. Arjun Singh.

Just before he read out a prepared statement, Mr. Chavan was seen having consultation with the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in the House. The members applauded the Home Minister's announcement, indicating their approval. The Chief Justice of India has been asked to name a judge to head the commission of inquiry. Other details like the terms of reference will be finalised soon.

The Sikh Students' Federation was banned, said the Home Minister, because some of its office-bearers had indulged in actions detrimental to unity and integrity of India. "We understand that the majority of Sikh students represented by the Federation are eager to play their part in the building of a strong and united India and have, therefore, decided to lift the ban," he added.

Mr. Chavan expressed the hope that all concerned with the unity and integrity of India would bend their energies to find a way out of the present situation. "So much is at stake. So much, therefore, is demanded of us all," he said.

Focus on Akali response

The focus has now shifted to the response of the Akali Dal which would be known after the party president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, reviews the latest situation with other senior leaders released as a result of today's decision. At a recent conference at Anandpur Sahib, the Akali Dal threatened to intensify its agitation from April 13, Baisakhi day, unless its seven demands, including the probe, were met. Today's announcement fulfilled most of those points. The formal Akali Dal decision on future course of action is now awaited.

Logically, according to official sources, it should now be possible for the Akali Dal to persuade itself to come to the negotiating table, since most of the pre-conditions had been met. But, because the developments in the Akali camp had taken unpredictable turns in the past and because the pressures of extremists had influenced the thinking of senior leaders, no escape was seen from a wait-and-see attitude.

The institution of a judicial inquiry into the Delhi riots turned out to be the most difficult decision for the Centre. The Government was not averse to a probe but wanted it be announced when a settlement of the Punjab issue was in sight. In the absence of such indications, according to the earlier thinking, a probe would only re-open old wounds that had begun to heal. This position, however, changed following a re-assessment of the situation in Punjab and the mood of the Akali leaders who were being increasingly subjected to the pressures of extremists.

The other two decisions did not involve any deviation from the earlier positions. Both Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Chavan had made it clear that

all those, who were found to be not involved in major cases of violence, would be set free. Similarly, there had been hints about the removal of the ban on the Students Federation.

Variation in estimates

The riots in the first week of November had caused a sense of alienation in the Sikh community which was deeply resentful of the Government's refusal to order an inquiry. There was wide variation between the official and non-official estimates of the number of deaths. While the Government put the number of those killed throughout the country at 1,277 and those in Delhi at 651, the unofficial figure for the capital alone was more than 2,000.

The following is the text of Mr. Chavan's statement:

The House has discussed the situation in Punjab on several occasions, from the point of view of resolving the issues in the wider perspective of preserving the nation's integrity and strengthening the unity of our people.

Hon'ble members are aware of the series of steps taken by the Government to restore normality.

It is in this context that I rise to announce some further decisions taken by the Government to this end. The Government will hold a judicial inquiry into allegations in regard to the incidents of organised violence in Delhi fol-

lowing the assassination of the former Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. A sitting Judge of the Supreme Court will head the commission of inquiry.

This House is aware of the circumstances in which the activities of the All-India Sikh Students Federation were banned. Some of its office-bearers had indulged in actions detrimental to the unity and integrity of India. We understand that the majority of Sikh students represented by the Federation are eager to play their part in the building of a strong and united India and have, therefore, decided to lift the ban.

Special courts were set up for expeditious trial of persons accused of various offences. The Government has been reviewing cases of persons held in detention, and many such persons have already been released. Consequent on the latest review, further releases are being made. The whole situation will be kept under constant review.

I hope and trust that all concerned with the unity and integrity of India will bend all their energies to find a way out of the present situation. So much is at stake. So much, therefore, is demanded of us all.

PTI reports:

The Centre today directed the Punjab Government to issue orders for release of the Akali leaders in accordance with the "guidelines" laid down.

CSO: 4600/1523

INDIA

GANDHI SPEAKS IN LOK SABHA FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 11 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

New Delhi, April 10: The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said in the Lok Sabha today that the large scale acquisition of arms by Pakistan, coupled with its nuclear programme, was the main obstacle in improving Indo-Pak relations.

Replying to the debate on demands for grants for the external affairs ministry, the Prime Minister said, "We know they (Pakistan) have aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons and we are very worried about their feverish purchase of arms." He blamed the US for failing to check Pakistan's nuclear programme.

After their expenditure on the Vietnam war, the US was spending the maximum on arms for Afghan rebels, he said, adding that it was not possible to know how much of these arms were reaching the rebels and how much remained in Pakistan. The sums involved are "very, very large," he said.

On Pakistan's nuclear programme, he said, "We do not like what we see. We do not know that they do not have the nuclear bomb."

Referring to the external affairs secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari's recent talks in Islamabad, Mr Gandhi made it clear that the talks were not on the no-war pact or the peace treaty. The talks were only a part of the efforts in "improving cordiality

between our two countries which could lead to a proper understanding at an appropriate time."

About his talks with the Pakistan President, Mr Gandhi said he had met Gen. Zia-ul Haq twice—once in November in New Delhi and then in Moscow—and the talks had been "very cordial." However, after the first meeting, Sikh jathas were allowed to visit Nankana Sahib where they made provocative speeches while after the second meeting, Gen. Zia "gave an interview which was contrary to what was said during the talks," Mr Gandhi said, implying that it was not possible to depend on the degree of cordiality at the talks.

On the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister emphasised that the solution must be such that the Tamils are able to live in peace and harmony for all times to come." It was not a question of the next five or 10 years, but a long term settlement was necessary. Pointing out that a situation must be created for the Tamils to feel confident of living there, he said, "We must see that we do not do anything" to jeopardise their interests.

However, Mr Gandhi raised serious reservations on the Sri Lankan President, Mr J.R. Jayewardene's recent speech in Islamabad in which he had men-

tioned the Kashmir issue. Mr Gandhi told the House that a committee had been set up in the UK on the Kashmir issue. "I wonder if these two are coincidental," he added.

The Prime Minister, in the course of his first major speech on foreign policy, said, "Our relations with the US and the USSR will be more friendly." The USSR, he said, was an old friend and had "stood by us when we needed friends." This friendship would continue.

As for the US, he said while India was keen on improving relations with it, "there are a few things standing in the way." The two major hurdles are "their arms supply to Pakistan and that they are not doing enough to control Pakistan's nuclear programme."

However, India "was hoping for better social, cultural and trade relations" with the US. Later, he said the Festival of India to be held there in June was a step towards that.

On India's policy in the sub-continent and relations with its neighbours, Mr Gandhi said certain initiatives had been taken and India was trying for the "best possible relations, keeping our basic policy intact and not deviating from it."

After the Prime Minister's reply, the House approved the ministry's budgetary demands, rejecting all cut motions.

CSO: 4600/1519

INDIA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 2 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

New Delhi, April 1 (UNI): The continued supply of sophisticated US arms to Pakistan and the activities of extremist leaders in the United States supporting the "Khalistan" movement has cast a shadow on Indo-US relations, the annual report of the external affairs ministry said today.

The repeated Indian plea that such activities were "detrimental" to relations between the two nations had little effect, it said, adding, however, that the cancellation of the proposed congressional hearing on Punjab, to be held by the subcommittee for Asia and Pacific Affairs and the Human Rights Commission of the Congress, was a "welcome sign."

It said the US government had played a commendable role in the termination of the hijacking of an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 in July last year to Dubai. Washington had turned down the hijackers' request to allow the aircraft to enter the United States.

The report said despite the fact that perceptions on various issues differed, India had made sincere efforts for better understanding with the United States during the year under review. The unabated induction of sophisticated American arms into Pakistan was the single most important factor generating friction between the two countries. Referring to Pakistan, the report said its "deep involvement" in the Punjab developments and its "help and encouragement to terrorism and hijacking" has caused a setback to progress in Indo-Pak bilateral relations.

Sri Lanka

On Sri Lanka, the continued violence against Tamils caused deep concern" in India, the report said. "The situation does not lend itself to a military solution. The only approach is to seek a political solution acceptable to all concerned."

The report said India viewed with concern the induction of security and intelligence organisations into Sri Lanka and the "irresponsible accusations" of India's support to so-called militant Tamils.

CSO: 4600/1505

INDIA

EDITORIAL SCORES U.S. COLLUSION IN PAKISTAN ARMING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Apr 85 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's forthright remarks about US acquiescence in General Ziaul Haq's dangerous drive to make an atom bomb are based on incontrovertible facts. For several years Islamabad has been pursuing this pernicious objective with relentless tenacity with the tacit support of the US and China. Pakistan has purchased, stolen or acquired by other devious means equipment, know-how and other material to enable it to manufacture a nuclear device. Pakistani officials bought dual-purpose technology in the "blackmarket" for stepping up the military regime's nuclear preparations and Islamabad deployed clandestine groups to obtain electronic equipments, manufactured by US corporations including General Electric, through their marketing outlets in other countries. All this has been done in the full knowledge of Reagan administration which has, as Mr Gandhi candidly observed, chosen to "look the other way". In fact, Washington's culpability is more grave. According to New York Times, American authorities let off lightly a Pakistani agent trying to smuggle out 50 pieces of Kryton, a key nuclear bomb component, even after catching him with documents linking him to Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission. Krytons are made only by one American company in the world and cannot be exported from the US without licence from the US State Department. Dr Abdul Qader Khan, the head of General Zia's nuclear bomb project, has claimed that Pakistan could manufacture a hydrogen bomb, not to speak of just an atom bomb. Dr Khan was earlier sentenced by an Amsterdam court in absentia to four years imprisonment for stealing the Dutch plans which were used to build uranium enrichment facility at Kahuta in Baluchistan. Documents obtained from Kahuta indicate that weapons-grade material is being secretly produced there. Evidence also showed that Pakistan was trying furiously to develop nuclear capability through both uranium enrichment and plutonium-breeding methods.

The US administration is also fully aware of formalisation of the Chinese collusion with Pakistan during General Ziaul Haq's visit to Beijing in 1981. China has not only placed her nuclear experts at Islamabad's disposal, but it is also reported to have agreed to provide to Pakistan facilities to conduct a nuclear test on Chinese soil because a nuclear test on Pakistani territory would have been easily detected. In fact, the mishap in Ras Koh mountain range in June, 1983, when Pakistan's nuclear tunnel caved in when equipment brought to the test site exploded — exposed to the world how far Islamabad had already advanced in its programme to make an atom bomb.

The US administration and other state organs have continued to overlook this mounting evidence. In fact, Washington has played a fraud on its own nuclear proliferation laws. It has continued to extend massive economic aid ignoring warnings in the Congress and the press; and stepped up supply of sophisticated military hardware, including aircraft capable of delivering an atomic bomb. All this is intended to set in motion a nuclear arms race in the subcontinent and to mount pressure on this country. There is little likelihood of an honest response from the US administration to the serious concern expressed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi about US encouragement to Pakistan's atom bomb programme. India must therefore take appropriate steps to meet this threat.

CSO: 5250/0007

INDIA

ECONOMIC RESEARCH PANEL NOTES ACCELERATION IN GNP GROWTH

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Apr 85 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 6.

The Indian economy has over the years showed not only an acceleration in GNP (gross national product) growth but also undergone "structural change" in income, consumption and saving in "desirable directions", says a study by the National Council of Applied Economic Research.

In a theme paper prepared for the annual day of the council held here on Friday, the NCAER Director-General, Mr. I. Z. Bhatty, contended that the structural change augured well as it "contains a whole set of stimuli for a more promising growth potential" for the economy in the years to come.

Although there were differences of opinion on the GNP growth over the years, the compound trend rate for 1961-62 to 1973-74 was 3.31 per cent and for 1973-74 to 1983-84, 4.01.

The acceleration in GNP over the period 1961-62 to 1983-84 was "statistically significant" and "it would have been sharper had not the GNP been underestimated in the official national accounts, especially since early 1970s and progressively to a greater extent since then".

The underestimation was marked in the organised manufacturing sector and the unorganised or informal manufacturing and services sector. In the organised sector, units were actuated to "understate their production by the gains from paying less than the due excise duty, reducing the ratio of levy where fixed proportion levies are made, and sharing the booty from arbitrage where black markets prevail."

Thrust on protective foods: On consumption, the paper said that while the share of total expenditure on food, with some vicissitudes, had

been rising until the middle of the seventies, it took a fairly marked downtrend after that. This meant an increase in the area of discretion in the budgeting of household expenditure. There was also a marked spurt in the share of expenditure on protective foods such as fats, pulses, sugar, vegetables, meat, fish, eggs and fruits.

While the country progressed towards self-sufficiency in foodgrains, the production of protective foods also increased, but not to the same extent. Hence the thrust in agriculture must now move away from cereals to all types of protective foods, without ignoring the demand for cereals too.

While the share of household expenditure on non-food consumer goods had increased, within the non-food consumer goods, the share of consumer durables had also increased substantially. The consumption of consumer durables had also increased more than revealed by the trend in domestic production on account of smuggling as well as imports through Indians travelling abroad.

The maturity of consumer decision making suggested that unless domestically produced goods became competitive in quality and price, the pressure of demand would continue to make smuggling a highly profitable business.

In view of the changes in the pattern of aggregate consumption expenditure favouring manufactured consumer goods, there was need for allowing the production of consumer goods more liberally in factory units of appropriate size. The cost of production could be directly reduced by a downward adjustment in indirect taxes on manufacture.

A 10 per cent cut in indirect taxes on the

manufacturing sector, along with a reduction in food and fertilizer subsidies, would have a salutary effect on the economy.

Food subsidy could be brought down by reducing the coverage of the public distribution system, as many of the relatively well-off households did not use their ration cards or used them only partially. Amounts of foodgrains against their cards were nevertheless pumped into the system.

"A surplus in the system, therefore, arises and is clandestinely channelled into the open market, transferring the benefit of the subsidy from the consumer to the trader". The saving on this score would be Rs. 200 crores.

Financial saving must rise: On saving, Mr. Bhatty said that in the earlier approach to the Seventh Plan it was assumed that the saving rate would reach its peak of 26 per cent in the last year of the Sixth Plan. But it would not reach this level in 1984-85 as preliminary estimates for 1983-84 put it at only 23.7 per cent.

Pointing out that any attempt to force the pace of saving in the short run for additional resources was likely to have an adverse effect on consumption, the paper said the evidence of a declining marginal saving rate seemed consistent with the changes in the consumption behaviour.

As the increase in the proportion of financial savings was likely to more than counterbalance the effect of the declining marginal saving rate, resource effort must be directed rather at increasing the proportion of financial saving.—PTI.

CSO: 4600/1511

INDIA

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW EXPORT-IMPORT POLICY

Highlights of Policy

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Apr 85 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 12.

The following are the highlights of the Government's new three-year import-export policy:

It will be for a period of three years ending March 1988, but licensing will continue to be on an annual basis.

Government departments will be allowed to import their requirements under OGL subject to conditions laid down, instead of having to obtain an import licence. For steel items, the MMTC has been designated as the canalising agency. Hitherto, Steel Authority of India Ltd. was the agency.

The per unit value limit for import of equipment having impact on quality and/or quantity of output, technical know-how, foreign consultancy, etc., under the technical development fund, has been enhanced from \$500,000 (about Rs. 62 lakhs) to the dollar equivalent of Rs. 100 lakhs.

Trading houses and export houses with minimum exports of Rs. 1 crore in the previous year are allowed to import technical designs, drawings and other documents required for their supporting manufacturers to the extent of Rs. 25 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs respectively, against their own rep/additional licences.

Computer import

Import of computer systems costing less than Rs. 10 lakhs (c.i.f.) is allowed under OGL by all persons for their own use. The actual users and the Computer Maintenance Corporation can now import permissible computer spares, tools and test equipment up to a value of five per cent (against three per cent allowed hitherto) *per annum* of the c.i.f. value of the imported computer systems under OGL.

In respect of indigenously manufactured computer systems maintained by CMC or in-house by the users, or by indigenous manufacturers as a part of their services to the users, the existing limit of one per cent for import of permissible computer spares under OGL has been raised to two per cent. In addition to CMC Limited, it is proposed to allow import of computer spares to other designated public sector agencies.

The facility for import of spares for after-sales service has also been extended to the consumer electronics industry.

The entitlement for import of warranty spares for aftersales service has been raised from one per cent of the last three years sale value of production to 1.5 per cent of the ex-factory value of production for the last three years, or two per cent of the value of the imported components, whichever is more.

Initial import limit up

In the case of earth moving equipment, the existing initial limit for import of spares for after-sales service has been raised from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs.

Restaurants (independent of hotels) approved by the Department of Tourism are allowed import of permissible spares under OGL.

In the case of Government departments, banks, public sector enterprises, etc., the value limit of machine paper rolls, toner and dispersant for photocopying purposes and spares for specified machines, has been abolished. The regional licensing authorities have been empowered to consider applications for import of these items up to a value not exceeding Rs. 5,000.

The list of office equipment which can be imported has been enlarged.

Three star hotels have also been allowed to import one vehicle under 10 per cent incentive quota on the recommendation of the Director General, Tourism.

Ad hoc licences for a c.i.f. value up to 10 per cent of the foreign exchange earned have been allowed to printing presses for supplies and services rendered by them to Indian parties on behalf of foreign customers.

Capital goods for exporters

Registered exporters whose exports of select products in any of the two previous years are less than the minimum prescribed 10 per cent of their production, but are more than Rs. 1 crore in value, have been allowed the import of capital goods against rep licences, up to a value of Rs. 5 lakhs in the case of Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units and Rs. 20 lakhs in the case of non-SSI units.

In the case of registered exporters, irrespective of their level of export performance, the value limit for import of capital goods against rep licences has been enhanced from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakhs.

Manufacturer-exporters of moulded wooden products have been allowed to import machinery on the lines of the facility hitherto allowed to manufacturer-exporters of wooden furniture.

Where the import replenishment rate is 20 per cent or less, flexibility for import of limited permissible items against rep licences has been enhanced from 25 per cent to 30 per cent of the face value of the non-transferable part of the licence. Similarly, where the rep rate is more than 20 per cent, the flexibility for import of limited permissible items has been enhanced from 20 per cent to 25 per cent.

In the case of an exporter who is exporting 50 per cent or more of his production of select products, and where the rep rate is more than 20 per cent, the flexibility of import of limited permissible items against rep licences has been enhanced from 20 per cent to 25 per cent and the single item value limit has been raised from Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs. Similarly, in cases where the import replenishment rate is 20 per cent or less, single item value limit has been raised from Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs.

Foreign exchange

The maximum limits on allocation of foreign exchange under the ITC permit scheme for export/trading houses have been raised from Rs. 7.5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs, from Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs and from Rs. 50 lakhs to 60 lakhs.

Trading houses and export houses with minimum export of Rs. 5 crores for select products and Rs. 10 crores for non-select products, have been allowed the import of an electronic telephone exchange for their own use against their rep/additional licences.

In the case of SSI units and the consortia of SSI units, the minimum threshold of qualifying exports for recognition as export houses has been raised from Rs. 50 lakhs for select products and Rs. 2 crores for non-select products, to Rs. 75 lakhs and Rs. 3 crores respectively.

Renewal of certificate

The concept of eligibility for additional licences based on the net realisation of foreign exchange, which was first introduced in the last year's policy, has been extended to the growth rate prescribed for the renewal of export/trading house certificate.

To ensure continued utilisation of infrastructure created by export/trading houses, provisions have been introduced enabling renewal of export/trading house certificate in the event of shortfalls in the prescribed performance, subject to the specified cuts in facilities otherwise admissible.

The prescribed minimum growth rate has been reduced from 50 per cent to 20 per cent under the scheme for entrepreneur merchant exporter.

The initial period of export obligation prescribed for advance licences has been raised from six months to 12 months for machinery and turnkey projects. For remaining items it has been raised to nine months except in case of video/audio cassettes.

The list of items for which advance licences for the manufacture of intermediate products are allowed has been enlarged to include 20 additional items. Similarly, the list of items where input/output norms have been prescribed by the advance licensing committee, has also been enlarged. The list of items for claiming duty free imports against rep licences has been enlarged.

Transfer

Permission can now be granted for transfer of materials manufactured by a 100 per cent export-oriented unit (EOU) or a unit in the free trade zone to another 100 per cent EOU or a unit in the FTZ subject to certain conditions.

The facility of sale of gold ornaments and articles at approved exhibitions arranged by organisers other than HHEC and its associates has been allowed.

Turnkey project exporters/project contractors have been allowed to import on OGL construction equipment, machinery, spares, tools and accessories and office equipment which were in use for their projects abroad.

Validity period extended

The validity of licences for emergency spares has been enhanced from six months to one year. The validity of customs clearance permit has also been raised from six months to nine months.

Regional licensing authorities have now been authorised to decide an application for supplementary licence for items in Appendix 3, part A, of the Limited Permissible list for Rs. 5 lakhs in the case of SSI units and Rs. 50 lakhs in the case of large scale units.

In other cases, where the decision regarding grant of supplementary licence is to be taken by the headquarters supplementary licensing committee, the sponsoring authorities have been advised to forward the application directly to the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, New Delhi instead of through the regional licensing authorities. This would enable quicker disposal.

Regional advance licensing committees are proposed to be constituted at Calcutta, New Delhi, Madras and Bombay in order to expedite issue of licences under the advance licensing scheme.

Powers raised

For consideration of capital goods applications, the powers of the regional licensing authorities and the CG, Ad-Hoc Licensing Committee, in the office of the CCI and E, have been raised from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs and from above Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 1-crore respectively.

The facility regarding re-import of items after repairs abroad has been further extended to cover cases involving payment. Import of carbon dioxide gas cylinders up to 15 litres water capacity for fire extinguishers as components has been allowed under OGL.

In the case of industries set up in a backward area or by graduates/diploma holders in professional subjects, or by ex-servicemen/persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, the maximum value limit of the licence has been reduced from Rs. 7.5 lakhs to Rs. 75,000.

Animal rennet is not allowed to be imported and put in the list of banned items.

Imports of (i) one slide projector, (ii) one 8/16 mm projector, (iii) one word processor, (iv) one paper shredding machine and (v) teleprinters without any restriction on number, but within overall value of Rs. 1 lakh will also be allowed to exporters, government departments, banks, public sector undertakings.

Facility for NRIs

Import of machinery listed in the restricted list of capital goods will be allowed to non-resident Indians returning to India for permanent settlement, provided the machinery in question has been in their continuous use abroad for at least two years. Non-resident Indians/persons of Indian origin returning to India for permanent settlement have also been allowed the facility of setting-up amusement parks.

Import of firearms as gift will now be allowed only from those close relatives who are Indian nationals holding Indian passports. Only one foreign made firearm of non-prohibited category will be allowed as gift. "No sale" period will be 10 years instead of five years.

The scope of the computer software export scheme has been extended to cover satellite communication also.

Small scale units have now been re-defined as "small scale industrial undertakings" and the limit of capital investment for such a unit has been raised from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 35 lakhs. Similarly, the limit for ancillary units has been raised from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 45 lakhs.

Registered manufacturer-exporters regularly exporting for a minimum period of three years may now avail themselves of a new facility known as "import-export pass book scheme", being made available in the new policy, for duty-free import of the inputs required for export production, subject to actual user condition.

Supply to ONGC deemed export

Supplies at international prices, of raw materials, components, machinery, equipment, instruments, accessories, tools and spares to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Oil India Ltd and Gas Authority of India Ltd, both for their off-shore and on-shore explorations, drilling and production operations, would qualify as deemed exports.

As regards exports, the policy has brought exports to Pakistan on par with exports to other permissible destinations. Hitherto, a specific endorsement was required for exports to Pakistan. This requirement has been removed.

Export of the following will be considered on merits: silk wastes, other than non-mulberry silk waste, acetone, phenol and acetic anhydride, non-chloro acetic acid and acetic acid, camels for breeding purposes.

Export of the following items will be allowed within a limited ceiling: rayon filament yarn and woolen-tow, export of sodium chloride IP/BP/GR/EPC grade will be allowed under OGL-3.

Some equine breeds have been brought under export trade control and export will be considered on merit. But the Kathiawari, Marwari, and Manipur breeds of horses will not be allowed for export.

Export of the following will normally not be allowed: manufactured products of common fox skins, hill fox skins, desert cat skins, red fox skins, civet cat skins, jungle cat skins and jackal skins, paddy, seeds of all oilseeds and pulses, charcoal of all types other than activated charcoal and activated carbon.

The minimum export prices have been raised in respect of table eggs, hatching eggs, roasted gram, fried and salted channa dal, moong dal, etc.

Items Removed From OGL

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Apr 85 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 12.

The following capital goods have been taken out from Open General Licence and brought under capital goods procedure; magnetic rotameters, testing rigs for colour TV production, photocomposing/typesetting machines and systems and ancillaries such as key boards, editing terminals, film/paper processors, line printers (other than line printers covered by appendix 5, Part A) and gear hobber for the watch industry.

The following items have been shifted from "Restricted" to "Limited Permissible List": tyre tube valves, valve cores, valve caps and accessories for heavy duty vehicles, cubic zirc-onia.

Self-adhesive tapes, all types, for electronics industry have been shifted from "Restricted" to OGL by actual user (industrial) only.

Restricted list

The following are the items brought under "Restricted List": marble, tetracycline base/HCL, vitamin B1 (thiamine HCL/thiamine mononitrate), vitamin B2, sodium cyanide, vinyl acetate monomer, vinyl acetate, flint buttons (RI-1.625, RI-1.654 and RI-1.700), iron scrap including pig iron chips, formic acid, fused bifocal blanks, aluminium phosphide, benzene hexachloride, malathion, cotton seeds, groundnut seeds, sunflower seeds, thiothiamine, colour TV picture tubes other than those included in app. 6 list 8, part 1, (A) forging quality steel/billets/bars/rods, (B) forged rounds up to 450 mm dia, (C) rolled rounds up to 145 mm, (D) billets for seamless steel tubes astme 45 quality; stainless steel rounds, stainless steel flats, alloy steel squares and other sections, stainless steel wires 304 L 30 gauge and thicker, stainless steel strips in sizes ranging from 100 mm to 150 mm and thickness from 0.5 mm to 1.5 mm.

Limited Permissible list

The following items have been shifted from "Automatic Licensing" to "Limited Permissible" list: acetone, acetylene black, activated carbon, benzaldehyde, borax, calcium carbide, calcium carbonate, copper alloy powder and flakes (other than of bronze powder), cyclohexylamine, diethylethanamine, dimethyl ethanolamine, electrocast refractories with zirconia content less than 40 per cent, furfural, grab bucket, gold cyanide, iso-propyl entopyrine, ketonic resins, metanitroaniline, ortho toluidine, paraanisidine, paradichloro benzene.

Parahydroxy benzoic acid and its ester/salt including para bens (methyl, ethyl, propyl), polyethylene glycol, metallised polyester film, potassium gold cyanide, PVC stabilisers excluding non-toxic grades, sodium gold cyanide, sulphonated/sulphited/acidised/chlorinated products of neats foot oil, cod liver oil and sperm oil, trichloroethylene, tricholine citrate, zinc sulphate.

Condenser bushings up to 245 kV, copper and copper alloy (all types of alloys like cupro-nickel, aluminium brass, aluminium bronze) in the form of pipes, tubes and hollow sections excluding capillary tubes and finned copper and cupro-nickel tubes, copper and copper alloys—solid sections, electro-deposited foil of thickness 0.17 m and above, expansion joints/bellows, eelagon lamps and infra-red lamps, lead-in-wires for gls, miniature and fluorescent tubes.

Permanent magnets, excluding those covered under appendix 3, Part A, solder wires (multi-cored, solid, etc.) all types, steel and iron castings including rough/proof machined, tungsten filaments, tungsten filament wire of 6.8 mm and below dia, zinc callots, zinc dust/granulations, components of vacuum cleaners.

integrated circuits of the types, radio receiver (No. 700), audio amplifier up to 7 watts (No. 810), TV sound and amplifier and output stage (No. 1190), digital read-out systems, tantalum capacitors of voltage rating 6.350 vdc and capacitance range 0.1 mfd to 330 pfd, video cassette without tape (C-0), video reels, wirewound resistors, spindle tapes, asbestos jointing sheets (including lampot sheets and beater addition jointing),

Scheme: insecticides, DDVP (Vapone), diuron, fenthion, fluchloralin, oxydemeton-o-methyl (metasystox) paraquat dichloride salt, paraquat di methyl sulphate/paraquat dichloride, phosalon/propanil.

Tiram: tyres/wheels, boiler/pressure vessel quality plates/coils in hot rolled/cold rolled condition in all grades of carbon steel in thickness 5 mm and above, all grades of carbon steel wires galvanised/black annealed/drawn/copper coated of sizes thinner than 0.445 mm but excluding tyre beads wires, high speed steels as under, rounds/wires in cobalt bearing grades 6.5 mm dia to 120 mm dia.

Hexagons/octagons/blooms/billets, forged/rolled tools and die steel and blocks as under, (A) round section above 500 mm dia, (B) rectangular/square shape of cross section above 2,50,000 sq.mm., cold heading carbon steel wire rods rolled rounds above 1453 mm, carbon steel flats in sizes of 8 x 40 mm to 40 x 200 mm, carbon steel squares in sizes ranging from 8 x 8 mm to 25 x 25 mm, forge rounds above 450 mm dia.

HP quality steel (plates), plates in spec. asima 588 Gr. A, plates above 8 mm thick waste-36, plates IS-2262 (weldable quality), plates above 1,500 mm width, IS-226, copper bearing sheets/coils in spec.

asima 588 GR 'A', Cr. coils and sheets to IS 513 GR 'O', cold rolled D/DD/E/DD quality sheets/coils, hot rolled coils/sheets/skelps.

Cold rolled high carbon (carbon 0.6 per cent and above) steel strips, unhardened and untempered, cold rolled steel strips 12 mm width and below, electrical steel sheets crgo spec. Gr. M 4, electrical steel sheets Gr. M 2H.

Tin plate prime OTS quality, tin plate waste, all seconds/second grades/defectives/cuttings/circles of sheets/plates/coils/strips in any shape/section/form not elsewhere stated in coated/plated or uncoated condition including tin/zinc/aluminium/aluminium alloy coated/plates and commodity marketed as tin free steels in the description above stated.

Cold heading quality alloy stell wire rods, turbine blade flats, stainless steel plate of thickness above 12 mm and width 1.25 metres, alloy steel plates/strips/coils (excluding SS/heat resisting steel HR/Cr), stainless steel strips (AISI 304 quality) less than 0.3 mm thickness for manufacture of capillary tubes.

Alloy steel plates—hot rolled/cold rolled in all grades (excluding stainless/heat resisting/high speed sheets) not elsewhere stated, alloy steel rounds, stainless steel scrap to specification AISI-316, CF 3M/316-L, alloy 20 and HV.

TV picture tubes/cris for B and W television sets, cryolite (including technical) aluminium fluoride/sodium aluminium fluoride, caprolactum, sodium borate, electronic peripherals including floppy drives (standard/minii), matrix printers and line printers.

CSO: 4600/1525

INDIA

COAL PRODUCTION REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH IN 1983-84

[Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Apr 85 p 9]

[Text] New Delhi, April 11--Coal production reached an all-time high-level of 147.45 million tonnes in 1984-85, representing a growth rate of 6.7 percent over 1983-84. Of this, production by Coal India Limited (CIL) was 130.85 million tonnes as against 121.41 million tonnes in 1983-84.

According to the annual report of the department of coal for the year 1984-85, the despatches of coal by CIL were 118.73 million tonnes as against 114.6 million tonnes in 1983-84.

The higher production has, however, resulted in increased pit-head stocks of 30.42 million tonnes as on March 31, 1985, compared to 22.69 million tonnes a year ago.

The report shows that there has been a discernible increase in productivity.

The output per man shift for CIL is expected to be 0.82 tonnes during the year as against 0.81 tonnes during the previous year. Similarly, the output per man shift for Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., was 0.68 tonnes in the period from April to December 1984, as against 0.66 tonnes for the corresponding period in the previous year.

During 1984-85 (up to February 28), the government has sanctioned 12 coal-mining projects with a total capacity of 14.8 million tonnes a year, involving a total capital outlay of Rs 438.04 crores.

In addition, 14 projects have been approved by the public investment board and are at an advanced stage of finalisation. Out of the 144 coal-mining projects each costing Rs five crores and more sanctioned since nationalisation of the industry, 24 projects have been completed and 119 projects are under various stages of implementation.

The working group for the seventh five-year plan on coal and lignite has submitted its report to the planning commission. A production of 206 million tonnes from the CIL mines and 24 million tonnes from the Singareni collieries have been projected in the terminal year 1989-90.

An investment of the order of Rs 10,670 crores has been estimated in the coal sector. For lignite, an investment of Rs 3.74 crores has been envisaged in the seventh plan period.

INDIA

COMMUNIST LABOR UNION EXCLUDED FROM MOST COMMITTEES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Apr 85 p 4

[Text]

IN the newly constituted central industrial committees, the CPI(M)-controlled CITU has been left out from most of them, according to Mr Monoranjan Roy, general secretary of the CITU in Calcutta on Thursday. The CITU has been excluded from cotton textile, jute and plantation committees and has found a berth only in the engineering committee.

According to Mr Roy, in the 11-member committee for jute, the Congress (I) controlled INTUC had two members in 1982 but its membership has now been raised to six while the CITU, which had two members in the last committee, has not been included this time. In the plantation committee, the INTUC had four seats last time, while in the present committee it has six seats and the CITU, which had one seat, has been excluded this time. In the cotton textile committee, the INTUC's strength has been raised from four to six while the CITU has been eliminated completely. Only in the engineering committee, the CITU retained the two seats which it held earlier while the INTUC continued to hold the three seats.

MILITANT

Mr Roy said that if the Centre thought that it could maintain good industrial relations by excluding the CITU it was living in a "fool's paradise". He said that CITU was the "most militant" among the trade unions and had a large following in all the industries and no industrial committee could function without its representation.

An apex body, which was formed excluding the Leftist organizations, like the CITU, during Emergency, failed to function. These committees would soon meet the same fate, Mr Roy predicted.

Mr Roy said that the CITU's existence did not depend on any apex bodies or committees. In fact, these committees seldom met in the past. The cotton-textile committee, formed in 1983, never met while the engineering committee met only once. According to Mr Roy, the committees were formed on the basis of verification of the "annual returns" in 1980 by the Directorate of Registration of the Trade Unions. The CITU had challenged the figures of the sample survey and had supplied fresh lists. There was something "fishy" on the formation of the new industrial committees, Mr Roy said. "It was not a question of getting any benefits but it was really a question of recognition." If the committees took any decision, they would try to implement it, but the CITU would resist, he added.

Mr Roy protested against the Railway Ministry's decision to reduce the wagon production from 12,000 last year to only 5,000 this year, while the Coal India Chairman reportedly said that 20.5 million tons of coal was lying at the pitheads for wagon shortage and insisted on transporting coal by road, the railways had reduced wagon production. He said that this decision, if implemented, would mean a lay-off of 150,000 associated with wagon production in West Bengal.

CSO: 4600/1522

INDIA

RAO DENIES THEFT OF ANTITANK BOMBS FROM KANPUR FACTORY

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Apr 85 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 9.

The Defence Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, told the Lok Sabha today that there was no information about any material having been supplied clandestinely to extremists from the Kanpur ordnance factory. He denied that some powerful anti-tank bombs had been stolen from the factory.

Security arrangements of all ordnance factories were reviewed periodically and these had been tightened at the Kanpur factory, he said in a written answer.

Engines for tanks: Efforts were under way to improve the performance of the existing power pack for the Vijayanta tanks and also to select a suitable alternative power pack. Engines of the tanks were being manufactured indigenously under licence from a British firm. Engines for other battle tanks were currently being imported, he added.

Mr. Rao said China was reported to be supplying arms to Pakistan and also some other countries in our neighbourhood. He spoke of reports that China was exploring the world arms market for selling its equipment.

Replying to another question, Mr. Rao said the general level of China's military technology was not known to have an edge over Western arms. However, some countries might purchase Chinese arms for considerations of their own.

Massing on border: The Government has no confirmed information about all the U.S. acquired weaponry Pakistan has massed on its border with India, the Defence Minister said.

He told Mr. Braj Mohan Mohanty that Pakistan was known to be acquiring sophisticated military equipment from the U.S. but how much of it was massed on the border was a variable factor.

The Government's concern on the supply of sophisticated weapons to Pakistan has been conveyed to the U.S. Government, he said adding that induction of such weapons in the neighbourhood undoubtedly has implications on India's security.

All such developments were kept under constant watch and appropriate measures taken.—PTI, UNI,

CSO: 4500/1516

IRAN

LAW CREATING MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES EXTENDED FOR SIX MONTHS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Apr 85 p 2

[Excerpts] KEYHAN political service. The Majlis held an open session presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

[The representative of Mahneshan said:] I ask the judicial branch to take steps as soon as possible to implement Article 49, for which the people are waiting impatiently. Unfortunately, we see in our courts that, before the large landlords are asked how they have obtained dozens of high-rise apartments, eviction rulings are issued for the Hezbollah tenant.

He then asked the Voice and Vision to prevent the showing of indecent films which violate public morality, especially domestic and foreign sports films with partially naked young people, because these films cannot by any means be accepted by our nation, which has offered martyrs for Islam.

Concluding his statements, Bayat said: I would like to add that the Ministry of Energy has made no investments since the revolution in the district of Mahneshan, with a population of 120,000. I also ask the Ministry of Roads and Transports to take steps to asphalt the roads in that region.

Agenda

After the pre-agenda speeches and the reading of the reminders of the representatives, the Majlis went into session, discussing the legislative proposal to extend the law establishing the Ministry of Heavy Industries, which was held over from the previous session. Speeches were made in opposition and support of this proposal.

In opposition, Valiollah Zamani said: When we speak of heavy industries, we must admit that emphasis must be placed on metal smelting, steel mills and major industries. The establishment of

ministries and organizations is determined on the basis of a certain model and the needs of the society. The question is: Based on what model, what view of industry, what priorities, and under what conditions will the three-year trial establishment of this ministry be carried out?

It is possible that one day we will have a minister of agricultural and textile machinery, which is a part of industry.

In Iran, unfortunately, a creature called industry is divided into three separate creatures, and in making it three parts, they have taken all the shortcomings that have existed in our country, torn them into pieces and made up three ministries. Essentially, the justifications which are to be taken into consideration have not been observed. In many places, we see that the door and window builders on the sidewalks are under the control of heavy industries.

Also, we see that the steel mill, which is the major industry of the metal industries, is within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Industries and Mines [as published]. It is not clear how these divisions have been made or how they must be done. Unfortunately, the creation of these three ministries out of one incapable and inefficient, if not indeterminate, one have placed the great burden of the conflicts on the government, so that we have had to appoint a force to solve and resolve these conflicts in that Ministry. Hence, I oppose the extension of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

In support, Mohammad Baqer Bahrami said: This bill for the extension of the law establishing the Ministry of Heavy Industries, which is now being discussed as an emergency in the Majlis, is for the purpose of eliminating a problem faced by a ministry of the Islamic Republic. The government and the Majlis must join hands in order to resolve this problem.

The essential thing is to eliminate the problem, to serve the people, and to move in the interests of the nation and the country. The result of the research that I have conducted in connection with the administrative system of the country in all ministries--and I accept the pure intentions and lofty goals of many of the brothers in connection with the change in administrative and organizational systems in the ministries--is that in regards to the existing situation of our ministries, if experts work on them, particularly with the kind of management which exists in these administrative organizations, they will be able to follow the slogan of combination, which is a very excellent slogan, in order to materialize the goals of those brothers who have signed the proposal as well as the honorable opponents.

For this reason, I request of the honorable representatives that they examine it with full understanding before casting their votes.

The last opponent of this proposal was Movahhedi-Savoji, who said: This law, which came to the Majlis in the previous term, was not at all one of the ratifications of the Majlis. In other words, the Majlis discussed neither the general points nor the details. Only the law was brought to the Majlis, and a proposal was made in accordance with the bylaws to be ratified in the proper committee.

Then the Majlis only ratified that this should be carried out on a trial basis.

Furthermore, in this trial period, much disharmony was created in this Ministry. It is not clear which industry belongs to which one of these three ministries, which one belongs to the Ministry of Heavy Industries or which one belongs to the Ministry of Light Industries [as published]. Another factor that has caused this disharmony is that no attention is paid to the quality of the industries.

The last supporter of this proposal was Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who said: Most of the gentlemen spoke about the nature of heavy industries, which is irrelevant here. You must admit that such decisions about work and industry are very difficult to make. You have only been asked to extend this period for six months in regards to the Ministry of Heavy Industries. Later, the related bill will be studied in the committee and will come to the Majlis. Hence, you gentlemen must consult your conscience. Now is not the time to decide whether or not this ministry should exist.

It is not in our interests to decide about combining it at the moment. In any case, we must resolve this issue and we must also resolve any problem that we see. The gentlemen should agree to extend this Ministry for another six months. In addition, he (Behzad Nabavi) wrote a letter to the effect that: For those who object to me, I am prepared to resign so that the industry is not sacrificed because of one person.

Then the representative of the government and the spokesman of the industries and mines committee offered explanations in connection with this proposal and each expressed his opinions in this regard.

Then the general points of the law to extend the establishment of the Ministry of Heavy Industries were put to a vote and ratified.

The details of this proposal were then discussed and several suggestions were made by the representatives concerning the extension period and the budget of this proposal. Then the single article and the notes of this proposal were put to a vote and ratified as follows:

Legislative Proposal for the Extension of the Law Establishing the Ministry of Heavy Industries

Single article. The law establishing the Ministry of Heavy Industries is extended for a period of six months.

Note 1. The budget of this legislative proposal will come from the funds already provided in the budget of the Ministry of Heavy Industries for the period 21 March 1985-20 March 1986.

Note 2. This single article will be implemented from the date of its ratification.

At 10 o'clock, the open session of the Majlis went into recess.

10,000
CSO: 4640/529

IRAN

EMERGENCY LOAN FUND TO EDUCATORS SET UP IN 235 AREAS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Apr 85 p 3

[Text] The second two-day gathering of the officials of the headquarters for honoring the status of teachers of the central offices of education from throughout the country began its work yesterday in the center for exceptional children and students of Tehran in the presence of Gholam Hoseyn Heydari, the deputy minister for providing and training manpower in that ministry.

This gathering has been held in order to coordinate the ceremonies for honoring the status of teachers. In this gathering, the committee for teachers' welfare of the headquarters for honoring the status of teachers stated in its report: Since 1983, in 235 educational areas, emergency funds have been established, the principle investments for which were made with the help of the educators themselves and the central fund has helped these branches with 330 million rials. Other educational areas have been instructed to take steps to establish emergency funds. If they become active, the necessary help will be provided for them. Concerning the consumer cooperative companies, the necessary instructions have been issued for those who are active at present to procure the goods needed for their colleagues. In this area, the central cooperative organization of the country and the consumer cooperative unions have been most helpful, and in areas where there are no consumer cooperatives, they can take steps to establish consumer cooperatives, taking into consideration the circumstances of the area.

It was also announced that in regards to the graduates of the teacher training centers who are sent to villages, in keeping with an agreement between the Ministry of Commerce and the urban and rural consumer organization, it has been decided to place some of the necessary goods at their disposal at a government rate. Also, in regards to teachers' housing, correspondence has been made with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and

the urban land organization. In certain educational areas, the urban land organization has made the necessary cooperation to distribute land among them.

Also, the workers' welfare bank has agreed to grant financial facilities in partnership with the teachers' housing cooperative companies with consideration for the regulations of Islamic contracts.

Then, Gholam Hoseyn Heydari spoke about providing strong, dependable teachers and the characteristics of a teacher. He said: The main concern is the training of teachers. Therefore, the teacher must be both dependable and strong in order to be able to carry out the heavy responsibility of teaching.

He then added: With the expansion of teacher training schools, in which we have had a growth of 300 percent, efforts have been made to choose and train teachers for the villages from the villages. At present, 31,000 student teachers are being trained round-the-clock in the teacher training centers of the country, who will be hired at Rank 6. Concerning the continuation of the education of teachers, a proposal has been prepared for teachers with diplomas to receive associate degrees on a part-time basis in four summers and during the year. The first competition for persons with diplomas and associate degrees will be held early this summer.

10,000
CSO: 4640/529

IRAN

CLANDESTINE REPORTS 'CLOSER' KUWAITI-SOVIET RELATIONS

GF101652 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 10 May 85

[Text] The continuation of the Iran-Iraq war has brought Kuwait and the Kremlin closer together. The Soviet ambassador in Kuwait has revealed that permanent contacts have been set up between Kuwait and Moscow to look into the Iran-Iraq war and the possibility of it being widened. While revealing the existence of diplomatic talks between the Soviet Union and Kuwait, the Soviet ambassador in the shaykhdom of Kuwait said that the views of both countries on the Iran-Iraq war are one and the same.

Kuwait is the nearest of the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms to Iran and in the course of the war has been attacked several times by Iranian fighters. In order to forestall any possible attack by the Khomeyni regime on Kuwaiti territory, the government of this shaykhdom has strengthened its defense forces and has turned the Kuwaiti island of Bobiyan into a war base.

Washington, as a result of opposition by American Jews, abstained from selling Stinger missiles to Kuwait, forcing it to turn to the Soviet Union for air defense equipment. Relations between Kuwait and the Soviet Union have been expanding since that time, although Kuwait and the United States also now have closer political and military relations. A group of Soviet military experts presently is working in Kuwait. The United States also has undertaken to support Kuwait militarily in the event of a military attack by the Islamic Republic regime.

CSO: 4640/547

IRAN

NVOI NOTES IMPACT OF VICTORY OVER FASCISM IN IRAN

TA092000 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 9 May 85

[Unattributed commentary: "40th Anniversary of Victory Over the Fascism of Hitler's Germany"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Progressive and peaceloving mankind is commemorating, as one of the international festivals, the 40th anniversary of victory over the fascism of Hitler's Germany in which the Soviet nations and army played a main role. It is an undeniable fact that the fate of World War II was primarily determined on the Soviet-German front.

It was as a result of this world-wide victory that the imperialist and colonialist systems were smashed and the socialist system was created in the world, and nations in a number of European, Asian, and African countries adopted a noncapitalist course of development. The liberation movement in colonialist and dependent countries expanded and accelerated, and scores of deprived nations succeeded in installing their own independent governments. Victory over the fascism of Hitler's Germany had an enormous impact on the fate of our own homeland, Iran, as well.

After the victory of the Soviet Army over German fascism, the liberation national democratic movement escalated in our own homeland also. The peoples of Azarbayjan and Kordestan rose to achieve their democratic national rights. The democratic movements of both peoples, which were supported and backed by all the peoples of our homeland, became victorious and national governments were established in Azarbayjan and Kordestan.

It was as a result of victory over the fascism of Hitler's Germany that later on the anticolonialist and anti-imperialist movement in our country expanded immensely despite its ups and downs. Ultimately the Iranian people, by taking advantage of the weakness of decrepit British colonialism, succeeded in nationalizing their oil industry and expelling the plundering South Oil Company.

It is essential to note that despite the hollow claims of (?Western) propagandists, the presence of a socialist government in the neighborhood of Iran was and remains a primary lever for thwarting the plans of world-devouring imperialists to encroach upon our homeland's independence whether in the

past or in the present. Since the very beginning of the victory of the great Socialist October Revolution, as a result of the Soviet Government's Leninist policy, the plots of colonialists to transform Iran into a colonialist country have been foiled. During World War II also, it was as a result of the Soviet Army's victories that Iran's independence and territorial integrity remained immune, for the umpteenth time, from the damage of the plots of world-devouring imperialists.

Since World War II, reaction and imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, have endeavored and continue to endeavor by staging local wars to encroach upon world peace, freedom, and the independence of nations. In our own country as well, reactionary clerics who have seized power by pursuing an adventurous fascist policy of expansion and aggression have created an extremely tense situation by their efforts to continue the war. It is in view of this fact that our homeland's people regard the struggle against this usurping and self-centered regime as a struggle against fascism and war, and are continuing their struggles with persistence and decisiveness for the expulsion of the usurpers of power and for the establishment of peace, freedom, democracy, and social justice in the country. There should be no doubt that our homeland's people will be victorious in this struggle.

CSO: 4640/550

IRAN

CLANDESTINE RADIO NOTES USSR CONDITIONS FOR AID

GF120826 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 13 May 85

[Text] The officials of Khomeyni's Islamic Republic have at last bowed to the latest conditions from the Soviet Union. It may be recalled that the ruling clerics, by sending several delegations to Moscow, have been asking the Soviets to reduce their arms supplies to Iraq. The Soviets, however, have issued conditions in order to accept this request. It appears the Khomeyni's Islamic Republic has at last submitted to the conditions from the communist superpower.

According to the report, the Soviet conditions were: One, Iran should withdraw its huge arms order from the PRC. Two: The Islamic Republic should stop persecuting the Tudeh Party. Three: The Khomeyni regime's aid to the Afghan fighters must cease.

According to our correspondent, very informed sources in Tehran have revealed that during the recent visit to Moscow by Kazempur Ardabili, the regime's deputy foreign minister, the Islamic Republican government had unconditionally agreed to resume gas exports to the Soviet Union. In reply to this good will by the clerics the communist government has promised that Soviet experts will begin building a subway system in Tehran.

It is expected that the Soviets will also increase their trade volume with the Islamic Republic to \$2 million during the current year.

It is said in Tehran an official of the defunct Tudeh Party had in fact accompanied Kazempur Ardabili during his visit to Moscow.

CSO: 4640/549

IRAN

BRIEFS

'HOUSE ARREST' OF KHOMEYNI'S GRANDSON--Hoseyn Khomeyni, Ayatollah Khomeyni's grandson, is under house arrest in Tehran. According to a report by our correspondent, telephone lines to the house have been cut and the central guards committee has refused Ayatollah Ha'eri's request to meet and confer with his grandson. Hoseyn Khomeyni had earlier been under house arrest in Qom and then in Mashhad and was brought to Tehran recently. He is Mostafa Khomeyni's son and he opposes the warmongering ideas of the Ayatollah of Jamaran. He supports the views of his mother's father, Ayatollah Ha'eri, who condemns the continuation of the war. The report by our correspondent notes that, Hoseyn Khomeyni was brought to Tehran after the distribution of Ayatollah Ha'eri's decree condemning the Iran-Iraq war's continuation, and is under house arrest in a home in eastern Shemiran. [Text] [(Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 11 May 85 GF]

CSO: 4640/548

PAKISTAN

WALI KHAN CRITICIZES U.S. AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 8

[Text]

QUETTA, April 24: Khan Abdul Wali Khan on Wednesday observed that Islamabad should have asked the US government to recall its Ambassador for his "interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan."

Addressing the Baluchistan Bar here, the chief of the outlawed National Democratic Party took strong exception to the statement made by US Ambassador Deane R. Hinton on Sunday last at the *Meet-the-Press* forum of the Rawalpindi Press Club.

Mr Hinton was reported to have remarked he was "baffled over the thought process" of those MRD leaders who demanded direct negotiations with the Karmal regime in Afghanistan.

The NDP chief made it clear that if sanity did not prevail now and people's rights were not given to them it would become difficult even for politicians to control the

mass upsurge. He said that the leadership would then go in the hands of young generation and struggle for rights of people might then take a different turn.

Earlier, Mr Khalid Malik, President of Baluchistan Bar Association, while welcoming Wali Khan, said that his services for the cause of democratic values, rule of law and independence of judiciary would always be appreciated by legal fraternity. He said that lawyers would never lag behind in supporting leaders who worked for the cause of democracy in country.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion were NDP's central leaders Sardar Sher Baz Khan Mazari, Abdul Khaliq Khan, Ghulam Ahmad Bilour and Mohammad Afzal Khan, PPP leaders Yahya Bakhtiar and Tahir Mohammad Khan, besides Therik-i-Istaqlal leader Anwar Durrani.

CSO: 4600/434

PAKISTAN

BIZENJO SAYS U.S. 'WANTS TO USE PAKISTAN'

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 8

[Text]

KARACHI, April 24: Mir Ghous Bakhsh Bizenjo, Convener of the MRD, has criticised the US Ambassador's latest remarks in Rawalpindi and said his statement amounted to interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan.

Talking to newsmen after a dinner hosted in his honour by the outlawed Sind PNP on Wednesday, Mr Bizenjo said it was surprising that the Pakistan Government has taken no notice of Hinton's observations in which he criticised the MRD leaders for demanding direct negotiations with the Kabul regime.

Mr Bizenjo said that the people of Pakistan wanted cordial relations with all their neighbours, including Afghanistan, Iran, India and the Soviet Union.

But the US government wanted to use the resources of Pakistan to

further its global strategy.

To a question, he said that the recent MRD meeting did discuss the formation of an election alliance but there was no consensus on it. At this stage, Khwaja Khairuddin intervened and informed the journalists that the MRD Action Committee had decided to implement the election alliance plan 'step by step'.

Khwaja Khairuddin also said that the Afghanistan issue did not come up for a detailed discussion at the meeting.

The dinner was also attended by Mr Shah Mohammad Shah, Dr Hamida Khuhro, Mr Pyarali Alana, Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani, Mr Azizullah Sheikh, Mr Mujeeb Pirzada, Mr Ali Agha, Mr Yusuf Mustikhan, Mr Qamar Zaman Rajpar, Mr Iqbal Haider and other leaders of the MRD.

CSO: 4600/434

PAKISTAN

EXILED LEADER CRITICIZES CONFEDERATION IDEA

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 8

[Article by M. A. Mansuri]

[Text]

LONDON, April 24: Former Punjab Governor Ghulam Mustafa Khar came out yesterday with a strong criticism of the recently formed Sindhi-Baluch-Pushtoon Front and its proposal for a confederation of Pakistan. He was talking to some Pakistani newsmen in London whom he had invited to a local hotel.

Without naming Mumtaz Bhutto and Abdul Hafiz Pirzada, who are among the newly formed Front's top office-bearers, he impliedly accused his former government and party colleagues of having struck a deal with the martial law government in Pakistan.

He said he was in government only for two-and-a-half years, but had to leave his home and make a lot of sacrifices because he could not come to a compromise with the military government.

Mr Khar said the formation of the Front and its demand for a confederation meant betraying the Punjab and amounted to a demand for the undoing of Pakistan, leaving even Sheikh Mujibur Rehman's Six Points far behind. It was also a betrayal of the Pakistan People's Party which was wholly committed to a federation of Pakistan, and the 1973 Constitution, which was

piloted by Abdul Hafiz Pirzada himself bore testimony to this fact, he added.

He also accused the present leadership of the party of failure to take stock of the situation. He demanded that those of the party leaders who had joined the Front and were demanding confederation should be expelled from the PPP.

However, Mumtaz Bhutto had told newsmen last week that he would abide by his commitment to the confederation idea if confronted with a choice. "Let them expel us from the party", he had said.

Both he and Mr Pirzada said that they had informed Miss Benazir Bhutto of their intention to form the Front and propound the idea of a confederation. He said, this was the only way to save Pakistan.

No comment on this situation which had been brewing for several months is available at present from the party's higher leadership. Begum Nusrat Bhutto is convalescing in France. Miss Benazir Bhutto is on a visit to the United States, which mission is intended to enlist the support of American public opinion.

CSO: 4600/434

PAKISTAN

PPP SAYS CONFEDERATION NOT ITS OBJECTIVE

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 2

[Text]

LAHORE, April 24: The Central Information Secretary of the outlawed Pakistan Peoples Party, Mr Rafiq Ahmad Sheikh, has said that federation and not confederation was the political objective of the party, and the Central Executive will discuss the issue and also the Sindhi-Baluch-Pashtun Front, together with the role of Mr Abdul Hafeez Pirzada and Mr Mumtaz Bhutto, if and when raised during the meeting.

The party's Central Executive session has been extended for another day, and decisions and resolutions will be made public on Thursday.

Briefing newsmen here on Wednesday, Mr Sheikh said that despite the fact that the SBP Front was a matter of concern, it must also be kept in mind that it was the outcome of the continuation of martial law, which had suppressed the legitimate rights of the people, particularly of the smaller provinces. According to him, "Something more than the Front can be demanded if the present state of affairs continues," adding that the government seemed to be patronising such trends itself.

The Central Executive on Wednesday resolved to express complete solidarity with the decisions taken by the MRD at its Central Committee moot at Karachi, and reaffirmed that the decisions would be fully implemented by the PPP. The executive also deplored the "deteriorating political and economic situation" in the country and held that it was because of the "wrong and irrational" government policies that the life of the common people had been made miserable.

The PPP Executive took strong exception to the recent Constitutional amendments and stated that the regime had tried to constitutionalise and institutionalise martial law, the end of which did not seem to be near. It also regretted that despite so-called elections and installation of Assemblies, martial law authorities and not the elected members of the Assemblies seemed to be wielding real power. As for the members of the Assemblies, the PPP is understood to have resolved that they must assert themselves and honour their pledges made to the people about securing the withdrawal of martial law. In case they made such an effort they would find political cooperation from outside the Assemblies, he added.

Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad told newsmen that the Central Executive was discussing all the issues confronting the people in "a wider perspective" because it was the country itself which was at stake. According to him, the party's role with regard to the struggle for the restoration of democracy within the ambit of the MRD and as an independent organisation was also discussed. As for the possibility of a dialogue with the government, he said that the PPP was neither considering the matter nor was interested in it.

The PPP central executive will take up the crucial issue of organisational matters on Thursday. The party seems under pressure from a strong section of workers who are demanding party polls. Similarly, the question of the 1967 Constitution of the party, which has not been implemented even since the

party came into power in early 1971, is most likely to be raised during the session. The Executive will have to categorically declare the fate of the party's four basic principles regarding Islam, socialism, democracy and the people, which many workers feel have fallen prey to complacency.

Nevertheless, Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad tried to dispel the doubts by saying that he was of the conviction that like democracy, socialism, too, was the destiny of the people.

He said that the party's four basic principles had not been abandoned. Nevertheless, the party was now giving priority to the MRD programme which had created the impression as if the party's basic principles had been shelved.

He also said that there was no possibility of any change in the party's manifesto. Rather, a "more progressive" programme could be given to the people.

He was, however, doubtful about holding party elections but said that if members raised the question, it would be discussed.

Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad described as "fabricated", and "baseless" the news carried by a local Urdu daily about differences in the meeting on the question of nomination of Mr Jehangir Badar as the president of the Punjab PPP. He said that Mr Badar had a political career extending over 20 years. He was not a novice. He said the issue was not raised at all.

He said that Gen (Retd) Tikka Khan was presiding over the meeting under instructions from Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi who had expressed his inability to attend because of health reasons.

According to the party's Central Information Secretary, the new arrangements were that the central executive would meet at least quarterly. All the provincial presidents would preside in rotation, beginning with Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi (Sind), Mr Yahya Bakhtiar (Baluchistan), Mr Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao (NWFP) and Gen (Retd) Tikka Khan or Mr Jehangir Badar (Punjab).

He said that next meeting would be held at Quetta and presided over by Mr Yahya Bakhtiar.

Many MRD leaders attended the lunch by the Punjab PPP for the Central Committee members.

24 May 1985

PAKISTAN

PPP ENDORSES MRD DECISIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Apr 85 p 2

[Text]

LAHORE, April 23: The Central Executive of the outlawed Pakistan People's Party is understood to have endorsed the decisions taken by the MRD at its central committee meeting at Karachi recently.

The executive, which began its two-day meeting here on Tuesday, has also decided to play a more effective role in the 11-party alliance which is struggling for the realisation of a four-point charter of demands for the restoration of democracy, seeking civil liberties and rule of law.

Presided over by the party's secretary-general, Gen. (retd) Tikka Khan, the central executive discussed the decisions of the recent MRD meeting and viewed that the constitution of the provincial autonomy committee, with the aim of proposing such amendments to the 1973 Constitution as would remove the feelings of deprivation in the smaller provinces, was necessitated as the present Government had deprived them of their legitimate rights. The executive meeting is being attended by 22 out of 25 members.

The central executive also discussed the formation in London of the Sind-Baluch-Pakhtoon Front. There were divergent views on the issue. While some members wanted an outright rejection of the Front others viewed that the matter should be left alone. Another point of view was that the Front was an outcome of the excesses made by the military regime on the people of the three smaller provinces and the best way to tackle the question was that the grievances of the people be removed.

According to Mr. Rafiq Ahmad Sheikh, the PPP central informa-

tion secretary, the executive discussed the "deteriorating" political and economic conditions in the country. It also discussed external relations and thought that the present foreign policy was neither balanced nor rational.

The PPP decisions and resolutions would be released to the Press on Thursday. Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Mr. Yahya Bakhtiar and Mr. Nasrullah Babar were not present.

A large number of party workers thronged the residence of Rana Shaukat Mahmood, where the meeting is taking place, all through the day.

On several occasions the party workers raised slogans in an effort to attract the leaders in session to make the party a political institution. Some workers demanded party elections while some demanded that the party be handed over to those who had made invaluable sacrifices during the past eight years.

Speaking during a tea interval in the afternoon, Gen. (Retd) Tikka Khan told workers the party was willing to cooperate with the newly-elected members of the assemblies so far as their pledges to their electorate about doing away with martial law and establishment of civil rule were concerned. But if they failed to fulfil their commitment within the next few months, the party would "fight" them out and demand fresh election, as envisaged in the 1973 Constitution and the rules as they stood in July 1977.

He asked the workers to maintain unity in their ranks.

Addressing party workers, Rana Shaukat Mahmood, said the PPP

aimed at changing the present exploitative system.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ghiasuddin Janbaz, a member of the central executive, described as "interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan" the statement of the US Ambassador which he made while talking to the Press at Rawalpindi the other day.

In a Press statement, Mr. Ghiasuddin said, the present Government had not reacted to the Ambassador's remarks which was a matter a concern for all democracy-loving people of Pakistan.

CSO: 4600/432

PAKISTAN

WALI KHAN DENOUNCES CONTINUED CURBS ON DEMOCRATIC, POLITICAL PROCESSES

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Apr 85 p 8

[Text]

QUETTA, April 22: Khan Abdul Wali Khan, President of outlawed NDP, has said that continued curbs to block democratic and political process would lead country towards violence and ultimately pave way for what he called a bloody revolution.

Wali Khan, who flew into Quetta from Karachi on Monday along with other central NDP leaders, Sardar Sherbaz Mazari, Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour and Mr. Abdul Khaliq Khan, was talking to newsmen at Arbab House where he had been brought in a motorcade from airport.

A large number of party workers and members of other parties in MRD were present at the airport to greet the leaders.

Wali Khan told a questioner that the MRD firmly believed in democratic struggle and was trying to achieve rights of people through democratic process.

He said that if democratic way remained blocked then people could resort to methods of violence.

He cited example of the then East Pakistan, where democratic

struggle for transfer of power after elections of 1970 was blocked by authority in power and people then resorted to violent methods which ultimately led country to its break-up.

Wali Khan in reply to another question said that neither any individual nor the recently formed parliament had a right to amend the 1973 Constitution. Amendments, he added, could only be brought about by such assembly which comes into being under an unamended 1973 Constitution.

He told a questioner that another four or five parties had applied to join the MRD and decision in this regard had yet to be taken.

In reply to a question, he said that whenever elections in the country were held under the 1973 Constitution, component parties of MRD could form like-minded groups.

Wali Khan in reply to another question said that Pakistan did not have good relations with a number of countries because of its foreign policy. Pakistan, he added, has become a satellite of the U.S.

CSO: 4600/431

PAKISTAN

MRD SAID TO REACH CONSENSUS ON AUTONOMY FOR PROVINCES

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Apr 85 p 1

[Article by Siddiq Baluch]

[Text]

KARACHI, April 22: The Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) has reached a consensus on its plans for future constitutional arrangements in the country, agreeing that only four subjects should be given to the central government, with all remaining residuary powers vested in the federating units.

According to sources close to the MRD, the alliance's Central Action Committee, its supreme policy-framing body, reached the crucial decision on a future constitutional framework after four days of wide-ranging discussions on the controversial issue during deliberations which concluded in Karachi last Saturday.

According to the decision, the future central government would retain the subjects of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Currency and Communications, while all remaining powers would be under the jurisdiction of the federating units.

All the MRD component political parties, which were represented at the Karachi meeting at the highest

level, made a pledge to the nation that they would collectively introduce amendments in the Constitution in the National Assembly to incorporate in the document this unanimous decision on the question of provincial autonomy.

The MRD meeting also reconstituted the concerned committee, calling upon it to frame suggestions in the light of the new decision. The committee, which is headed by Malik Mohammad Qasim, has been asked to finalise its recommendations within two months and send its report to the Central Action Committee.

MRD sources considered this a most historic decision in view of its implications for the solidarity and integrity of the country. They said all leaders had accepted the demand made by those from the minority provinces.

The sources said the decision on the quantum of provincial autonomy would restore the confidence of the smaller federating units in the federal system and guarantee the continued integrity and solidarity of the country.

CSO: 4600/431

PAKISTAN

TRANSFER OF POWER TO MRD DEMANDED

Karachi DAWN in English 23 Apr 85 p 8

[Text]

QUETTA, April 22: Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan, chief of defunct Tehrik-i-Istaqlal has called for transfer of power to MRD without any delay if the country was to be saved from being further damaged and said that a great harm had been done to national unity during the past eight years' "dictatorial rule" in Pakistan.

The country, he added, had suffered a lot on economical, social and political fronts with freedom of people to express themselves curbed by the authority in power.

Defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal chief, who was addressing members of Baluchistan Bar Association in District Courts Bar Room in Quetta on Monday said that if power was transferred to MRD "we promise to hold election in the country within four months under Election rules laid down in 1973 Constitution as they stood for 1977 polls".

Earlier, welcoming the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal chief on his visit to Bar Room to address Quetta lawyers, President of Baluchistan Bar Association, Mr Khalid Malik, said that sacrifices of Mr Asghar Khan for restoration of democracy would always be appreciated.

Mr Asghar Khan said that the present government had pushed the country into a critical situation on its western borders due to wrong foreign policy and added that "although we condemn Soviet intervention in Afghanistan yet, at the same time, we want that Pakistan should have direct talks with Kabul government to settle the issue". He was of the view that there was no harm in having contact with Kabul and said that it could be done without recognising the Afghan government.

Referring to recent elections held on non-party basis, Mr Asghar Khan said, these elections had divided the nation as they were held on tribal and linguistic basis. Much harm had been done to country by holding elections on non-party basis, he said, and added that the unfortunate incidents which occurred a few days back in Karachi were, in fact, the outcome of these elections.

Mr Asghar Khan said that Pakistan should have a people's army and added that military power should rest with the people.

Civic reception

Addressing a reception hosted on Monday afternoon by the Quetta city branch of defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, Mr Abdul Wali Khan, President of defunct NDP and Mr Asghar Khan, TI chief pledged to continue their struggle for restoration of democracy and rights of the people. Both the leaders said the people of Pakistan wanted their rights to be restored and added that they would ultimately achieve their objective.

Mr Asghar Khan said that denial of people's rights could greatly harm the country and the cause of national unity. He said the present government had been responsible for creating regional and sectarian prejudices and added that after recent Karachi incidents it no longer had the right to rule the country.

Mr Asghar Khan said, we want that the present rulers who did not enjoy the support of the people should leave with honour and dignity. But, he added, they would not do so unless, the people unitedly struggled for it.

Khan Wali Khan, in his speech, said that the name of Islam was being exploited for perpetuating power. He said that if people in one province were barred from entering into other provinces, national unity would be difficult to be maintained. He said that it was in the interest of the country and the nation that rights of people were restored.

Earlier, Mr Khudai Noor, Vice-President of defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqbal, Pakistan, and Mr Anwar Durrani, provincial chief of party also spoke on the occasion.

CSO: 4600/431

PAKISTAN

MRD PLEDGES TO ENSURE 'EFFECTIVE AUTONOMY'

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Apr 85 pp 1, 10

[Text]

KARACHI, April 20: The MRD Central Action Committee has sounded a note of caution that if the 1973 Constitution was not restored, it would give rise to "demands far beyond the constitutional orbit".

On the question of provincial autonomy, the committee felt that there should be an "effective and viable mechanism" to guarantee that the Federal Government "will not arbitrarily suppress, supercede, curtail or abridge" the autonomy of the federating units.

The MRD high command directed its constitution sub-committee to submit its recommendations by June 15 specifying:

"— the subjects/matters which will vest in the Federal Government;

— the constitutional provisions to ensure an effective say for the federated units in the federal subjects/matters; and

— the modalities of guaranteeing the autonomous status, powers and existence of the federated units within the Federation of Pakistan, without undue interference from the Federal Government".

The resolution said that all the component parties of the MRD have pledged "individually and collectively" to the above basic principles and assured that the future "democratically elected parliament" will amend the 1973 Constitution accordingly.

It was pointed out that checks on the Federal Government were necessary so that it could not dissolve the provincial assemblies or their governments "in the name of emergency or any other flimsy ground".

These and other resolutions were released by the MRD convener, Mir Ghaus Baksh Bizenjo, at a crowded news conference at Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's Defence Housing Society residence here on Saturday. The resolutions were adopted by the MRD Central Action Committee at a record four-day deliberations which ended on Friday.

The resolution on the "status of 1973 Constitution" recapitulated the series of government actions viz. the PCO (Provisional Constitution Order), the Aug-12, 1983 plan, the Dec-19, 1984 referendum and the February, 1985 elections to say that all these were intended to replace the 1973 Constitution by "a new one of his (the President's) own".

In addition, it said that through "unilateral" amendments to the 1973 Constitution a new constitution of 1985 had come into being which has "destroyed the federal structure" of Pakistan and converted it into an "unitary system in which the federated units have no rights or powers whatsoever". Moreover, it has transformed the parliamentary system into a "naked dictatorship and perpetual martial law, and robbed the National Assembly of all its powers".

The MRD refuses to recognise the "President's 1985 Constitution", the resolution declared.

Answering a volley of questions, Mr Bizenjo warned that the MRD leaders had made a last-ditch attempt to save the 1973 Constitution, but if its call went unheeded the Federation of Pakistan will be at stake.

Now is the time to accord provin-

cial autonomy on all subjects except a few on which hinges Pakistan's security and solidarity, but he said "if you do not give the people (of smaller units) their rights, they will demand independence for themselves".

Mr Bizenjo set a three-month deadline after which the demand for confederation, according to him, will be made and if at that time the government talked of acceding autonomy, it will be futile.

By doing away with the Pakistan's federal and parliamentary character the present regime wanted to perpetuate itself, but Mr Bizenjo cautioned that the step would ultimately result in the confederation demand.

Mr Bizenjo said the MRD high command had formed a programme committee to chart an overall programme incorporating Sardar Sherbaz Mazar's 31-points, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's 14-points and any other additions within which the MRD would continue to mobilise public opinion. The committee has been asked to submit the programme within a period of two months.

The Action Committee, Mr Bizenjo said, has decided to set up its organisational structure for which a sub-committee has been assigned to sort out details and report within two months.

The MRD resolution was highly critical of the conditions in jails in contravention to the jail manual.

Mr Bizenjo recalled a number of cases where the political activists have been falsely implicated, arrested and tortured, while in Quetta not only six persons were killed but several others, including Mr Mahmud Achakzai, chief of Pakhtoonkhwa (NAP), were arrested. Near Thatta activist Shahid Hussain was put to death allegedly by a police raiding party.

Mr Bizenjo said that hundreds of political prisoners were still languishing behind bars and the treatment meted out to them was worse than that given to criminals.

He also called for the release of political leaders such as Mr Mairaj Mohammad Khan, Mr Fazil Rahu, Mr Rasool Bakhsh Paleejoo, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, Makh-

doom Khaliquzzaman, Maulana Shah Mohammad Amrozi and Mr Latif Afridi.

Referring to the MRD resolutions, the convener slated the government's handling of the affairs of the Wah Ordnance Factories where some 200 employees have been detained, and of the Quaid-i-Azam University whose Senate has been dissolved and an ordinance "arbitrarily" promulgated, thus jeopardising academic autonomy and freedom.

The MRD resolution on the Karachi disturbances strongly appealed to the people, especially those living in poor working class areas, not to be misled by agents provocateur and maintain peace and harmony in their ranks.

It said the administration had proved itself "incompetent" otherwise if correct measures had been promptly taken the situation would not have deteriorated.

The MRD expressed its profound grief on the tragic death of so many innocent people.

A correspondent wondered why after four days of record discussions the MRD leadership could not produce an action plan. Mr Bizenjo said the people already knew what the MRD's line has been. However, he added, "we are not starting any agitation, even though our stand vis-a-vis martial law is irrevocable".

Mr Bizenjo said the MRD had no quarrel with the new parliamentarians and if they were able to have the 1973 Constitution restored, sovereignty of the Parliament recognised, supremacy of the rule of law ensured and the fundamental rights restored they will be welcomed.

Asked about the possibility of a government-opposition dialogue, Mr Bizenjo counter-posed the query: "What for?" He denied there had previously been any dialogue, although he admitted, certain messages had been received from the government side.

The MRD will consider the dialogue offer if the government comes out with its agenda which committed it to undo the referendum and election results and to hold fresh polls under the 1973 Constitution, Mr Bizenjo observed.

PAKISTAN

NASRULLAH SAYS ONLY ELECTIONS UNDER MRD ACCEPTABLE

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Apr 85 p 10

[Text]

HYDERABAD April 20: The chief of the defunct PDP Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, said here on Saturday that the results of only those elections would be acceptable which are held under the aegis of an MRD interim government. He was addressing a big gathering of members of the Hyderabad Bar Association.

He said MRD was neither prepared to accept General Zia-ul-Haq's recent elections, nor would it accept the results of any future elections that might be held at any other time under the present government. "Our struggle will continue till the complete restoration of unadulterated democracy," he added.

He said that in accordance with the resolutions of MRD, general elections would be held within a few months of the formation of an MRD interim government, the results would of course, be acceptable to the nation.

Tracing the constitutional history of the country and comparing it with the constitutional history of Bharat, the Nawabzada said that the political parties were never given a chance to show their worth, and time and again the combined forces of martial law and dictatorship had compelled them to continue the struggle for democracy.

He said that the elections held by General Zia recently were tantamount to deceiving the entire nation, and added that the parliamentary form of government was simply unthinkable without the elections on party basis.

He said that in his opinion to call a country - "land without constitution" was the biggest curse. He said

that 1973 Constitution was the only which was unanimously approved and "our only fault was that we talked of civil liberties with reference to this Constitution, and our stand was that only the elected representatives could amend the Constitution and not the so-called Assembly or an unelected individual".

The Nawabzada said that, taking refuge behind Islam, General Zia-ul-Haq tried to get himself elected through the so-called referendum but it was a happy augury that the people rejected him by casting less than five per cent votes. But there could not be a bigger irony than that he (General Zia) still calls himself an elected President. He pointed out that referendums in all civilised countries were held over controversial issues and not for the election of the head of state. He said General Zia had concentrated all powers in his own person, and Parliament was just farce.

He emphasized that a federal parliamentary system alone could keep the country united. He reiterated that history will prove that the MRD decision to boycott elections was correct and the MRD did not regret this decision.

Reverting to the subject of the 1973 Constitution, Nawabzada Nasrullah said that General Zia had eliminated the 1973 Constitution in letter and spirit, but "we will continue to struggle to protect and restore this Constitution because the CMLA was incompetent to amend or abrogate the Constitution." He told the gathering that the humiliation suffered by political workers under the present regime were unparalleled in the annals of history.

Nasrullah Khan paid glowing tributes to the lawyers, and added that whenever dictatorship was imposed, Bar associations was the only forum through which the sentiments of the political workers and the people were expressed loud and clear and the struggle for civil liberties was waged. The Nawabzada said that the liberation of the subcontinent and the establishment of Pakistan were the results of political acumen and leadership of lawyers.

CSO: 4600/429

PAKISTAN

JI LEADERS SAY MARTIAL LAW UNISLAMIC

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Apr 85 p 3

[Text]

LAHORE, April 20: The Central leadership of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami and a number of its members elected to Parliament today criticised Martial Law as un-Islamic and resolved to work for its withdrawal.

They also pleaded for revival of political parties and the restoration of all democratic rights to the people to ensure national solidarity. The Jamaat leaders also sought the cooperation of other political parties to establish what they called the supremacy of the Quran and Sunnah and to forge national unity.

The Jamaat leaders were addressing a reception hosted by lawyers for Prof. Ghafoor Ahmed, Qazi Hussain Ahmed and a number of other Jamaat leaders elected to Parliament.

In his address, Prof. Ghafoor Ahmed, the Jamaat's Naib Amir declared that Jamaat would do its best to secure the withdrawal of Martial Law and the supremacy of the Islamic system, and would extend all possible cooperation to the non-Jamaat parties and individuals working for these objectives.

He criticised the Revival of 1973 Constitution Order and said that it had reduced the status of Prime Minister to what he termed a horseshoe — needing three horse-shoes and a horse to function properly. It was, he noted, due to the powerlessness of the new Premier that President Zia had to advise the bureaucracy to cooperate with Mr. Junejo.

Karachi situation

Referring to the situation in Karachi, the Jamaat's Naib Amir said, "hidden enemies" were fan-

ning sectarianism although the father of the girl student killed in the accident had pardoned the wagon driver responsible for the mishap. He said it was very unfortunate that instead of taking necessary measures to bring the situation under control, "the rulers are busy inaugurating stadiums."

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, the J.I. Secretary-General and Senator from NWFP, said the Jamaat was opposed to Martial Law. Now that assemblies had been elected, there was no justification for the continuation of Martial Law.

He said, restoration of democratic rights and civil liberties was imperative for national solidarity. He urged for the revival of political parties and said the new parliament would be dependent on the bureaucracy in the absence of political parties.

"No dictator has the right to suggest the number of political parties in the country or the manner in which they should function. Pakistan is not the only country which had many political parties. It is up to the people to increase or decrease their number."

Similarly, no one was above the law, he said, and added that with the introduction of the Islamic system the entire safeguards the President had achieved through constitutional amendments would cease to exist. He demanded full powers for the superior courts to decide cases according to the Islamic injunctions and examine the Islamic vires of various laws.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed said, the policy-makers were "representing the imperialist powers" and it was

due to their wrong policies that national production had suffered a decline of 25 per cent. "Our policy-makers need to be rescued from imperialist influence," he added.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed demanded right of self-determination for Kashmiris and Palestinians and underlined the need for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. He opposed the suggestion that Pakistan should hold direct talks with the Karmal regime and said that such talks would mean according recognition to the Afghan regime.

Maulana Gauharur Rehman, MNA said that any government which came into power through force was dictatorial which was not permissible in Islam. He was of the view that Muslims were duty-bound to depose a government which did not accept the suggestions of the Shoora.

He said that Jamaat-i-Islami was trying to get Martial Law withdrawn and to introduce Islamic form of government but withdrawal of Martial Law "to pave way for another secular system" had never been the Jamaat's objective.

Maulana Abdul Haq and **Hafiz Salman Butt**, MNAs, also expressed similar views.

CSO: 4600/429

PAKISTAN

REGIME URGED TO INITIATE DIALOGUE WITH LEADERS

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Apr 85 p 10

[Text]

LAHORE, April 20: Mr. Ghafoor Ahmed, Naib Amir defunct Jamaat-i-Islami, has proposed a dialogue between government and the politicians, and feels that the initiative in this regard should come from the government.

The government should send formal invitations to the politicians alongwith an agenda like Mr. Bhutto did to hold talks with the PNA, he said while talking to reporters here Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Ghafoor was of the view that the government's assertion that its doors were open for a dialogue was not enough, because politicians were not beggars.

The J.I. deputy chief said: "Martial law cannot continue after the general elections. The process these elections have initiated cannot be reversed. The government will have to give necessary powers to the assemblies or the latter would get them on their own."

Mr. Ghafoor added: "The Assemblies cannot be powerless for long for example, Parliament was powerless in the early days of Mr. Bhutto, but was accorded all rights

after a struggle by the politicians."

Answering a question as to whether the withdrawal of martial law was possible after the formation of the National Security Council, Mr. Ghafoor said his party was for restoration of the 1973 Constitution, as it was adopted in April, 1973, with only one amendment, relating to the Qadianis, which had been made unanimously. The restoration of the Constitution would solve all problems, he said.

Asked why student unions had not been revived, although the Jamaat had taken part in the December 19 referendum on an assurance by the President in this respect, Mr. Ghafoor said that the Jamaat's struggle for this purpose would continue till the achievement of the goal.

The Jamaat leader took serious notice of the failure of all candidates examined by the Baluchistan Public Service Commission recently, and said the matter should be thoroughly probed. In addition, he said, the Federal and provincial public service commissions should be reorganised.

CSO: 4600/429

24 May 1985

PAKISTAN

ASGHAR KHAN DENOUNCES 'FEUDAL OPPORTUNISM'

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Apr 85 p 10

[Text]

KARACHI, April 20: Mr. Asghar Khan, chief of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istaqlal, on Saturday exhorted the nation to struggle with "sweat, blood and tears" for the transformation of the present archaic, exploitative feudal system into a just, equitable social order.

He contended that without achieving such a goal all talk of Islam and its eternal values was just a facade designed to exploit religion to perpetuate the exploiters hold over the teeming millions.

The former head of Pakistan Air Force, who' was addressing the Karachi Press Club's "*Meet-the-Press*" forum and, later, the Karachi Bar Association, called for organised, conscious endeavours by all the political elements to eliminate feudal power in the country.

These opportunist feudal lords styling themselves as the "king's party" had successfully infiltrated into the successive ruling parties, the Muslim League, the Convention League and the People's Party as well as sided with the autocrats and "swollen-headed" bureaucracy to further their self-aggrandisement, he maintained.

During the question-answer session at KPC, Mr. Asghar Khan dismissed the concept of a confederation as a "bogey" and said that those who have formed the Sindhi-Baluch-Pushtoon Front in London should come back to the people of Pakistan and then "we will meet them in the political field."

In his considered view the solution to socio-economic injustices, to which not only the people of minority provinces put also of the Punjab were subjected mercilessly, lay in mobilising all the oppressed and subjugated people in a crusade

against the exploiter class of the four provinces together.

Mr. Asghar Khan called the Parliament "an assemblage of loyalists" which "we do not recognise as we believe they are part of the autocratic regime." The "real masters" have brought their "loyalists as new faces" to share a facade of power with them and they, themselves, continue consolidating their position.

Making a case for a citizens' army, the former air marshal maintained that the present military set-up continued to remain colonial in shape and substance. The defence expenditure could be curtailed to size in meeting with the foreign policy and defence compulsions, he claimed.

Referring to the oft-repeated contention that through the latest democratic process a new leadership had sprung up and that the old professional politicians had been rejected, Mr. Asghar Khan said, "We will welcome the propped-up leadership if they speak the people's language and strive to activities. "That does not impress me because it is primarily an attitude of mind," he said while pointing out that despite the incarceration of political leaders, restrictions on their movements and the gagging of the press the process of reaching the mass of people had continued unabated.

A correspondent asked what would happen if he was detained for another five years, his statements and utterances were barred from publication and things remained static as before. Mr. Asghar Khan counterposed the query: "So what?" and wondered whether the change in the existing status quo

depended on him or the press being free. "Couldn't the message be sent to the people, as it has, through word of mouth?" he asked.

Pointing to the unfortunate disturbances in Karachi, Mr. Asghar Khan said that in any civilised country the government would have resigned already. He described the administrative structure as "rotten" and alleged that the police and other officials had allowed themselves to be a part of the overall corrupt system.

He stressed the need for channelling the surplus money to fight corruption and also to check the continued influx of the rural people into the urban areas.

The reason for large-scale continuing migration of rural population to urban areas is that production of small land holdings have been affected, small industrial units have been closed and unemployment is increasing by leaps and bounds, he said.

And, he asked, what development could be expected when only four per cent of revenue budget was being spent on education and health and 76 per cent of it was being consumed on defence expenditure, debt and interest payment, plus ten per cent each on police, intelligence and bureaucracy.

At the KBA, answering a question on 'confederation' issue, Mr. Asghar Khan elaborated that these demands were the natural consequence of the continuation of martial law.

He said he was all for provincial autonomy and for protecting the linguistic and cultural rights of the people of the smaller provinces.

CSO: 4600/429

PAKISTAN

ROLE OF ASIAN BANK LOANS FOR ENERGY, INDUSTRY DISCUSSED

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

KARACHI, April 24: In Pakistan, the Asian Development Bank's operational strategy supports the objectives and priorities of the country's Sixth Five-Year Plan, according to the annual report of the Bank.

In this context, the Bank's policy is to support the process of economic restructuring by transferring funds to key sectors and by emphasising improvements in the institutional framework, efficient use of resources and stronger incentives to increase production.

If these main objectives are met, the supplementary objectives of poverty alleviation and regional development can be achieved through income creation.

Sectorally, the Bank's major support in Pakistan is to energy and industry, the two sectors best suited to provide the necessary development thrust over the medium-term, while maintaining involvement in agriculture. Energy accounts for 42 per cent of total lending while development banks and agriculture account for about 24 per cent each.

Loans

A total of \$347 million was approved in 1984 for four loans in Pakistan, one of them being the largest loan so far given by the Bank — \$169 million for units 11 and 12 of the Tarbela Hydropower Extension Project. The Bank acted as the lead agency in appraising and arranging co-financing for this project aimed at meeting the forecast energy load demand up to 1990.

Of the three other loans, two were for agriculture and one for a

health and population project.

In agriculture, the Bank participated with \$122 million in co-financing the Left Bank Outfall Drain (Stage II) Project, a major undertaking aimed at reversing the deterioration of agricultural land in Lower Indus Basin.

It also approved \$40 million loan for the Chashma Command Area Development Project, which is designed to increase irrigation efficiency, expand crop production and improve social and economic conditions in the Northwest Frontier Province.

The fourth loan, for the Second Health and Population Project, aims at wide-ranging improvements in the national health and welfare services, particularly in Sind Province.

Three of the four projects involved co-financing totalling \$383 million with various multilateral and bilateral donors.

Technical assistance

The Bank approved nine technical assistance projects totalling \$2.2 million, of which \$750,000 was financed by the EEC and UNDP. Of the nine projects, five were agricultural, involving irrigation development and crop diversification, while others supported science education for secondary schools, health and population, farm-to-market roads and an urban sector profile.

The total technical assistance programme numbers 39 projects amounting to \$7.95 million, of which 15 later became Bank loans totalling \$704.8 million.

In addition, the Bank approved a direct equity investment of Rs 6 million (\$420,000) in the National

Development Leasing Corporation Ltd., the first company to provide lease financing in the country.

The ADB has so far provided 70 loans totalling \$2.11 billion for 54 projects in Pakistan. Of these, 31 loans amounting to \$876.4 million were from the Bank's ordinary capital resources and 39 loans amounting to \$1,236.1 million from the Bank's soft loan window, the Asian Development Fund.

Local cost financing accounted for \$57.6 million or 16.6 per cent of total Bank lending.

Implementation

The ADB annual report states that of the 70 loans approved to Pakistan, 26 have been fully disbursed and completed and 22 were under administration, including six awaiting loan effectiveness.

Disbursement totalled \$163.1 million, bringing the total cumulative to \$776.8 million, or 46.7 per cent of the total amount of effective loans.

Delays were experienced in agriculture, water supply and social infrastructure projects. The annual report disclosed that these were caused by occasional lack of consensus between federal and provincial authorities on the priority to be attached to individual projects, internal government procedures for project approval, slow appointment of consultants and frequent changes in government policies and turnover of managerial and technical staff.

To overcome these problems, the Bank and the Pakistan Government have held regular semi-annual meetings since 1983 to review projects and discuss implementation issues.

24 May 1985

PAKISTAN

ECONOMY SAID SUFFERING DUE TO 'BOTTLED UP RESOURCES'

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 5

[Article by Sultan Ahmed]

[Text] THE basic facts are cold and chilling. And they relate to most of the sectors of the economy. If this financial year will end badly all round more due to external factors, the next year will begin on July 1 with an awesome deficit of two million tons of wheat.

Don't mistake the current headaches of the economy for real cancer, exhorts Dr. Mahbubul Haq who is now Finance Minister as well as Minister for Planning. And he does not want us to regard seasonal "pressure points" in the economy, like the energy crisis with its 'exasperating load-shedding, as perennial problem areas. Instead he invites us to share his bubbling optimism for the future, shed the soft options, which we are said to have enjoyed so far, and opt for tougher choices.

A list of the cold facts first. Exports are down by 12 per cent compared to even the poor last year with its trade deficit of Rs. 44.8 million due to increase in imports by Rs. 9.4 billion, as the latest State Bank figures show. Imports have simultaneously gone up by 12 per cent, predicting a far larger deficit than last year's, unless some of the export incentives announced by Dr. Haq, at a cost of Rs. 90 to Rs. 100 crore to the nation, produce rapid results.

The trade deficit used to be wiped out with the large home remittances received from Pakistanis

abroad; but now the remittances are down by 14 per cent compared to last year and may touch only 2.5 billion dollars compared to three billion dollars last year.

As a result, the foreign exchange reserve of the country has been drawn down by 800 million dollars in the first nine months of the year, after last year's deficit of Rs. 9.3 billion in the current account balance of payments. Approved foreign exchange held by the State Bank of Pakistan dropped from Rs. 22.7 billion in December 1983 to Rs. 10.8 billion by December last, and if the latest figures show a rise to Rs. 11.17 billion that reflects more the fall in the value of the rupee in relation to the dollar. And with three more months to be accounted for before June 30, the erosion of the foreign exchange reserve can be terrifying.

Internally deficit financing, which is largely printing of notes, has risen to Rs. 1,200 crore in nine months compared to the budgeted Rs. 580 crore for the whole year. Usually a good deal of deficit financing is done before the end of the financial year. So how will the year end with a deficit of Rs. 1,500 crore or more? It is a giddy prospect.

Money supply has risen by 10.8 per cent during the first eight months of the year, compared to 9 per cent last year, partly because of more rupees per dollar received. So the consumer price index has risen by 6.2 per cent within the first eight months compared to 4.9 per cent in the same period last year.

As a result of such factors, the

GDP growth this year is expected to be 8 per cent compared to the original projection of 10.5 per cent. Dr. Haq is comforted by this 8 per cent growth, but the fact is that this figure is high only because GDP growth last year fell to 4.8 per cent from the projected 6.5 per cent. So the low base of last year can give us a better figure this year, which is rather illusory.

For the next year Dr. Haq has promised a good many things through his three-pronged strategy. He has promised larger allocation for the Annual Development Plan with its supportive special programmes, and far more funds for the neglected rural areas, on which Prime Minister Junejo lays a great deal of emphasis, and for infra-structure, particularly energy production into which far more funds are to be pumped.

He has assured that despite the inflationary pressures which are building up now consumer prices would not go beyond last year's level, which was 8.4 per cent, and anyway it would not touch the double digit. And he is to make prices of essential goods lower than last year. As he has declared 8 to 9 per cent inflation as unacceptable, and inflation as "a most inequitable tax" he would strive to keep prices low.

How would he achieve that along with the extensive decontrol which he proposes and possible reduction in subsidies? He has contended that the controllers have gained far more by controls than the people. He is right; but will the private sector readily sing along with him and reduce prices or keep them down, including in areas like textiles, where prices shot up because of high prices of cotton following its shortage and footwear?

In his report to the Federal Cabinet on Monday he said that the higher rupee cost of foreign exchange for defence, debt service importing petroleum and petroleum products, edible oil, fertiliser and other public sector imports had aggravated the budgetary crisis. If decontrols distribution of these items prices can shoot up. And if he resorts to larger deficit financing inflation will worsen. Which way will he go?

Fixed income

Simultaneously, he has promised

to offer not token but substantial relief to the fixed income groups, particularly the salaried. Government employees were not given increase in salaries last year. Will that be done in a big way this year? If that is done, will not the cost be high and the budget deficit larger?

He has also promised to eliminate inequities in taxation, reduce the burden of taxation where it is unjustly heavy, and tax more those who could or should pay more. How much of additional revenues can he really raise through such means, particularly when he is to leave large savings with the private sector for re-investment?

Dr. Haq says the import of two million tons of wheat has been arranged for, but how he has not explained. If that comes as aid the net aid will be reduced. And if our own resources are used in part that could strain the foreign exchange reserves further.

It has been reported that the Annual Development Plan next year would be Rs. 37 billion — Rs. 7 million more than the current ADP. But the current ADP was to be Rs. 33.29 billion. Does that mean there will be a shortfall of 10.1 per cent over the nine per cent shortfall last year? He wants the Sixth Five-Year Plan to be back on the track now as its objectives and priorities are sound. But the Sixth Plan's projection for next year's ADP is Rs. 41.5 billion, and not Rs. 37 billion. So how is the plan going to fare even when the planner has become the financier as well?

How is he going to get the resources for the laudable objectives he has enunciated when 74.4 per cent of the revenue budget is earmarked for defence and debt servicing? And now Dr. Haq says that because of the fall in the exchange rate of the rupee far more has been spent on both account. Air Marshal (retd.) Asghar Khan says that defence expenditure can be reduced without reducing defence capability if the armed forces are re-organised as a national institution and the colonial pattern is shed. But that is something far beyond Dr. Haq's province. Will the armed forces come to his rescue and shed their soft options in favour of the evident hard choices?

The series of Press conferences and Press briefings held by Dr. Haq raises more questions and provides fewer answers. His goals are land-

able, his rhetoric is resounding, and his sympathy for the poor touching. But before re-structuring the economy it has to be de-structured, and those who control it, both in the public and private sectors, made to relax their tight hold over it.

Integrated pattern

Has he now really a package of proposals which can mesh with each other and produce the wholesome results which he seeks? Or is he doing some loud thinking with his varied proposals to ascertain the reactions of the pressure groups? De-control, denationalisation and de-regulation have their merits. But we have to see an integrated pattern and the time-frame for it. If these were tried when the economy was brighter and the government's budget squeeze was less, Dr. Haq could have greater leverage than he has in a dismal economic year.

Meanwhile there is real fear that the sharp increase in steel prices, and possible increase in railway fare and freight, power and gas rates would push up prices steeply. These basic inputs have a way of pushing up prices all round rapidly. And that will make the consumer price index shoot up regardless of what the official figures may say.

And while country must give up soft options for the hard choices which stare in its face, the new Ministers are opting for even softer options. House rent for Ministers has been raised by 60 per cent from Rs. 5000 p.m. and for Ministers of State by 75 per cent from Rs. 4,000 in Islamabad. There are proposals for increasing the house rent of the officials modestly but higher house rent for Ministers would benefit the top officials who own those houses in Islamabad.

This is not what the masses expect of the elected Ministers of an Islamic system. So the Ministers have to opt for the hard choices before asking the masses, who have had little but tough choices all along, to discard the foam cushions they are not sitting on.

PAKISTAN

U.S. GIVES ASSURANCE TO HELP WITH WHEAT SHORTAGE

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Apr 85 Business Supplement p I

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, April 23: The United States has assured Pakistan it will help meet the wheat shortage owing to unfavourable weather conditions this year.

This was stated by the Chairman of the Senate, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, while addressing a Press conference here on Tuesday, after his return from Washington.

Mr Ishaq Khan said that he called on the US Vice-President Mr George Bush in Washington, and while discussing bilateral matters he apprised Mr Bush of the shortage of wheat.

The Senate Chairman said that the US Vice-President has promised to help Pakistan meet the shortfall. Mr Bush also praised the economic policies of Pakistan, he said.

Mr Ishaq Khan, who chaired the two-day meeting of the Development Committee, a joint body of the World Bank and the IMF, in Washington said that for the first time in many years "we have set in motion a constructive dialogue on many of the global issues which have defied solutions so far."

He said that the committee has asked the World Bank management to present a report at its next meeting which would provide projections of bank lending over the next five years, together with implications of such a lending programme for increased capital base required for the Bank.

The committee, he said, will also be discussing at its next meeting the report of a "Task force on concessional flows to developing countries".

Resources

Agency reports add: Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that during the last eight years the Government has made efforts to reduce reliance on foreign resources.

Answering a question about the changes in the fiscal policies of the Government, the former Finance Minister said that a new government had been inducted and they should attempt to resolve the economic problems through their policies. But, he recalled, several achievements had become possible because of the government's monetary policies during the last seven years. He also cited some examples in this regard and said the cotton production and its export reached its peak in 1979, because of the efforts of a public sector agency which exported 20 million bales of cotton. He urged the private sector to give similar performance.

Referring to the nationalisation of banks, he said "We had nationalised banks in the interest of the country and not because of affiliation to any particular ideology".

However, he maintained, if the country needs it, the government should allow banking in the private sector.

CSO: 4600/431

24 May 1985

PAKISTAN

ECONOMIC COUNCIL APPROVES 24 PROJECTS

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Apr 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on Tuesday approved 24 projects relating to various sectors of the national economy, including Bin Qasim Thermal Power Unit 3 and 4.

The meeting was chaired by the Federal Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Mahbub-ul-Haq.

The Bin Qasim Thermal Power Station will have two more units of 200 megawatt each at the Bin Qasim site with the associated 220 kilowatt transmission system. It is estimated to cost Rs 6,057 million and has been sponsored by the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation.

The object of the project is to increase the generating capacity to meet the growing demand of Karachi and rest of the country.

Another important scheme approved in the energy sector relates to secondary transmission line of grid stations. The objective of the project is to transmit electrical energy from the primary grid system to interior areas.

The ECNEC also approved the revised I.D.R.T. Highway Financing Project at a cost of Rs 1,010.826 million including the foreign exchange component of Rs 86 million. It is a World Bank-aided project for improvement of National Highway which runs from Karachi to Peshawar.

The meeting also gave approval to water management component of the Left Bank Outfall Drainage Project at an estimated cost of Rs 377.46 million with no foreign exchange component.

The projects approved today include eleven schemes in the transport and communication sector. In

this sector, the meeting approved a scheme for replacement of old un-serviceable telephone instruments, battery sets, airconditioning plants, teleprinters, vehicles and other assets in T and T Department.

The replacement will increase operational efficiency and reduce maintenance cost of the T and T assets. The scheme forms a part of the overall Sixth Five-Year Plan strategy for improved and efficient telecommunication services in the country.

The project is estimated to cost Rs 163.56 million with a foreign exchange component of Rs 52.88 million. Rs 2.81 million will be recovered through sale proceeds of salvaged equipment. The project is expected to be completed in a time period of three years.

The meeting also approved a similar scheme in the same sector about replacement of junction cables which have outlived their useful life, developed very low insulation and as a consequence there are frequent breakdowns. Furthermore, the junction/cables which have become inaccessible due to recarpeting and widening of road etc. would also be replaced. Hence it will increase the operational efficiency of the network and reduce the maintenance cost.

The scheme is expected to cost Rs 50 million with a foreign exchange component of Rs 20.00 million.

It is proposed to be implemented within a period of two years.

In the same sector, yet another scheme approved today relates to extension of reliable telecommunication facilities to the coastal areas of Baluchistan and Northern Areas

of NWFP.

It envisages the provision of a Domsat network with 11 metre diameter antennas of Gawadar, Skardu and Gilgit, to be linked with master earth stations at Karachi and Islamabad. UHF radio links have been provided for linking Pasni and Jiwani with Gawadar and Turbat with Pasni. This facility will be extended to the other remote areas of the country subsequently.

The project is expected to be completed in a time period of 18 months. It is estimated to cost Rs 103.42 million with a foreign exchange component of Rs 58 million.

Yet another scheme approved today in the same sector, relates to provision of 125 multi-channel UHF links connecting small towns with main outlets in Pakistan. It will be installed at 32 different important towns which will adequately cater for the long distance channels requirements.

The total cost of the project is Rs 2111.0 million with a foreign exchange component of Rs 79.0 million.

In the same sector, the meeting also okayed a scheme for 2000 long distance channels at a cost of Rs 50 million. It will be additional channels on the main trunk routes.

This has been necessitated due to projected increase in the telephone lines during the Sixth Plan period.

The project is estimated to cost Rs 50 million with a foreign exchange component of Rs 30 million.

A scheme for installation of 8 additional radio frequency channels on the national microwave link was also approved. It will augment the number of telephone circuits by 13,560 from 9,733 at present to 23,293. The total number of circuits needed to carry nwd traffic by the end of sixth plan is 15,470.

The telephone circuits available from the existing installation and on-going projects amount to 9,733. The current scheme will not only meet the total requirement by 1987-88, but also provide spare capacity for emergency and for relieving congestion on lines.

The total cost of the project is Rs 253.21 million with a foreign exchange component of Rs 164.73 million.

Another scheme in the same sector approved today relates to the expansion of existing nwd stations with creation of new primary trunk

dialling centres (PTDC's) during the Sixth Five-Year-Plan.

It envisages provision of an additional 4,530 channels to the existing nwd network at 55 stations. In addition, six terminal exchanges would be upgraded to the level of primary trunk dialling centres (PTDC's) in order to accommodate new stations proposed to be brought on nwd netork during the Sixth Plan under a separate scheme.

It also proposes to switch over from conventional service to the digital technology for transit nwd exchanges. Total cost of the project is Rs 429.0 million with a foreign exchange component of Rs 200.0 million. A scheme for acquisition of a second hand bulk carrier at a cost of Rs 57 million (in foreign exchange) was also approved.

It is proposed to run the bulk carrier as a regular shuttle service between Karachi and Aqaba (Jordan) with at least 11 round voyages per year, lifting at least 25,000 tons of rock phosphate per voyage and thus catering for the import requirements of the country for the next few years. At present the bulk of the rock phosphate requirement of the country is met from imports. During 1983-84, Pakistan imported 283,000 tons of this commodity from Jordan.

The procurement of a second handbulk carrier for the purpose will result in a more efficient and economic operation.

A similar scheme approved ex-post facto today, relates to acquisition of two used twin Otter aircraft. It is estimated to cost Rs. 30.975 million with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 29.5 million.

The Sixth Plan envisages feeder services to 26 new stations in remoter areas or for national integration and better communication facilities to the rural area. The airports are being developed by the Civil Aviation Authority according to a three phased programme to be completed by 1987-88. In the first phase, PIA would require two 18-20 seater aircraft for the feeder services to Kohat, Mianwali, Sargoh, Mangla and Bahawalpur. The twin Otter has been found to be more suitable on account of its better high altitude and high temperature take off performance and economics.

A similar scheme approved by the meeting relates to acquisition

of one used air bus a 300-B4 aircraft by PIA during the current year. It is in line with the airlines approved fleet plan for 1983-88 and in accordance with the objectives of the 6th five-year plan. It will be pressed into the Haj operation and thereafter put into routes between Karachi-Bombay, Islamabad-Lahore etc. It is expected to cost Rs. 452.76 million.

The ECNEC also gave ex-post facto approval to the revised third IBRD Highway financing project at a cost of Rs. 1010.826 million including a foreign exchange component of 86 million. It is World Bank aided project for improvement and strengthening of national highway which runs between Karachi to Peshawar.

(Message incomplete)

CSO: 4600/432

PAKISTAN

POWER SHORTAGE SAID TO HIT PUNJAB INDUSTRY HARD

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Apr 85 p 2

[Text]

LAHORE, April 23: Power loadshedding has hit the Punjab industry hard and production has declined by about 28 per cent. In monetary terms the per day loss due to the energy crisis amounts to Rs. 45.56 million.

The loss in industrial production has been calculated by a representatives body of the traders and industrialists after a comprehensive survey.

According to a report compiled by this body the battery and bicycle production have gone down by 50 per cent and 43.7 per cent, respectively. The production of electrical and steel goods by 42.9 and 40.7 per cent. A 35.9 per cent decline has been estimated in rubber industry and 32.3 per cent in food industry.

The decline in textile production is 22.9 per cent, in glass industry 21.5 per cent, in leather industry 29.9 per cent, ceramics 14.3 per cent, sugar 8.3 per cent, jute 23.7 per cent, paper and paper board 27.1 per cent.

A 26.9 per cent reduction has been monitored in milk products, 25.06 per cent in the pharmaceutical industry, 20 per cent in ghee industry and 6.6 per cent in chemical industry.

The average decline has been estimated at 27.87 per cent.

It may be pointed out that there were 6191 industries, were registered with the Government in 1982. Of them, 4046 were in the Punjab or 65.35 per cent of the total.

WAPDA sources have indicated that loadshedding will continue even in the coming months. However, measures will be taken to save agriculture and industry from loadshedding under a Federal Government's directive.

The Federal Cabinet has advised the WAPDA to draw up a crash programme to have separate feeders for industry.

The total value of industries set up in the Punjab is about Rs. 130 billion.

CSO: 4600/432

24 May 1985

PAKISTAN

MERGER OF PARTIES IN AZAD KASHMIR ALLOWED

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Apr 85 p 4

[Article by A. A. Salaria]

[Text]

MUZAFFARABAD, April 23: Amendments to election laws in Azad Kashmir continues. Two more ordinances, amending the amendments contained in the two earlier ordinances issued last week, have been promulgated by the AJK Government. This follows a decision taken at a special meeting of heads of five leading political parties, convened at Islamabad by the Prime Minister of Pakistan in his capacity as Chairman, AJK Council.

According to the amended amendments, merger of political parties in Azad Kashmir has been allowed under certain conditions. Before a merger can be legally effective, a competent body of the merging party will have to pass a resolution declaring its dissolution and naming the party with which it is going to merge. A copy of this resolution will have to be sent to the Election Commission. The merging party, thereafter, will cease to exist as an entity and all its assets and liabilities will be taken over by the party with which it has merged.

Under the second ordinance, candidates, whose nomination papers have been rejected due to their parent parties having merged with others, without observing required formalities, have been allowed to file appeals with the chief Election Commissioner for reconsideration of their cases.

While the new ordinances have tied another knot in the already tortuous procedure of contesting elections, they have, to some extent, salvaged the prestige and prospects of certain parties belonging to the AJK National Alliance. Some of their important candidates, whose nomination papers had been rejected, have already filed appeals and are expected to be declared eligible for contesting polls.

Meanwhile, seven political parties, headed by AKPP, have formally announced their boycott of the poll unless all amendments effected recently in the election laws are withdrawn and the Interim Constitution Act of 1974 restored in its entirety.

CSO: 4600/432

PAKISTAN

PDP CHIEF SAYS 'NO EXPECTATIONS FROM PARLIAMENT'

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Apr 85 p 4

[Text]

MULTAN, April 23: Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, an MRD leader and chief of outlawed Pakistan Democratic Party, has said that MRD did not attach any expectations to the parliamentarians elected under the partyless system for lifting Martial Law and restoration of basic rights to the citizens.

Talking to Dawn at his brother's residence here on Monday morning the Nawabzada dispelled the impression that the MRD had given three months' time to Government for lifting Martial Law. He said the statements of Gen Zia-ul-Haq and Prime Minister Junejo clearly showed that the military rulers were not going to relinquish power at least in the near future.

As far as the claims made by the members of Assemblies were concerned, they sounded fine but logically speaking there was no weight in them. These parliamentarians had no mandate with them and the constitutional amendments had blocked all possible ways for them to take an independent step, Nawabzada said. "We cannot attach any hope to these people, we are not opposed to them but at the same time we are not optimistic about them," he added.

Referring to Gen Zia's latest interview in a foreign magazine about the possible delay in lifting of Martial Law, the Nawabzada said "It was not a matter of surprise for the MRD. On the contrary we would have been surprised had the General announced lifting of Martial Law in the near future because

we know their intentions.

Nasrullah Khan said that demands of the MRD were undebatable. He remarked there is no need of discussing the same thing several times, our demands are clear.

To another question, he said MRD was not preparing for direct confrontation with the Government. "Let me make it clear. Only the Zia Government is confronting us directly and we are only demanding restoration of the Constitution. Tell me if it is crime? Zia-ul-Haq himself admits that Martial Law is a curse."

The Nawabzada said "we are still determined to adopt peaceful ways for restoration of the democratic process. We shall keep mobilising public opinion whatever the circumstances, maybe it is our basic right, we shall use public pressure to make the rulers accept our genuine demands."

The Nawabzada said that the MRD had decided to declare "political untouchables" those leaders and workers of parties who have participated in the February elections.

Referring to disturbances in Karachi, the PDP chief said such disputes were a logical result of suppression of political activities. We had warned much earlier that the oppression will call for regional sectarian and class disputes. The Sind, Baluch, Pakhtoon Front is one example of that. The MRD has nothing to do with it. We only demand restoration of 1973 Constitution, keeping the federation intact.

CSO: 4600/432

PAKISTAN

BIZENJO STRONGLY URGES DIRECT TALKS WITH KABUL

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Apr 85 p 8

[Text]

KARACHI, April 23: Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo, convener of the MRD, has said Pakistan's salvation lies in a clear refusal to become a hotbed of superpower confrontation in this highly sensitive region.

The only way the country could become "acceptable" to its immediate neighbours was by dissociating itself from the role of protecting and promoting the strategic interests of one superpower at the cost of another, he maintained.

Mr Bizenjo, who was speaking at the Karachi Press Club's "Meet-the-Press" forum on Tuesday, said that for Pakistan to demonstrate clearly its commitment to the Non-aligned Movement, it should start a dialogue with the Karmal regime for a political solution to the Afghanistan crisis.

And why not, he asked? Were not the diplomatic missions of Pakistan and Afghanistan functioning at either's capital? Were not the Charge d'Affaires called to receive formal protests at the respective Foreign Offices? He failed to understand why there should be a hitch in talking directly to each other when so much of both the neighbours was at stake, he added.

Mr Bizenjo, who is also President of the outlawed Pakistan National Party, strongly urged people, including all the political elements, to join hands in prevailing upon the Government "not to precipitate matters" on Pakistan's border. To serve a superpower's global interest and, thereby, to put the country's territorial integrity at stake was a "highly dangerous course", he cautioned.

He dubbed as "childish" the policy of believing that a "friend" sitting 20,000 miles away would come

to our rescue in event of a clash with one who had guns trained, hardly 20 miles away.

Was former East Pakistan saved, as used to be claimed, with the "arrival" of the American Seventh Fleet or "help" from a neighbouring country? he asked.

Mr Bizenjo regretted that, to fulfil its wrong foreign policy commitments, the Government had added to its financial burden so much that it had made the country "entirely dependent" on aid which "obviously had strings attached to it."

At the outset, Mr Bizenjo referred to Karachi disturbances which, he said, should be condemned by every law-abiding and right-thinking citizen. The first day a college girl was fatally run over and that was a mishap, but the unfortunate happenings thereafter were not at all accidental, he observed.

According to him, the main reason for this recurring violence in Karachi and other places was the inciting of tribal, baradari, sectarian and other parochial feelings during the present regime.

"In Baluchistan, tribalism has now been revived and the people there are returning to the tribal system for their self-preservation", he said. Besides, polarisation had taken place on account of restrictions on the movement of politicians from one province to another, he added.

Mr Bizenjo said that had jobs been provided to people in their own provinces, they would not have taken the trouble of coming over to Karachi. And when in one place (like Karachi) there had been so much concentration, it was obvious

that vested interests would be created, he said.

In reply to a question, the MRD leader said the slogans of "Azad Pakhtoons", "Azad Baluchistan", "Sindhu Desh" and even "Azad Punjab" were the byproduct of the eight-year-old "repressive and repressive regime". He asked whether those who now demanded a confederation, were enemies of Pakistan? Replying in the negative, he explained it was because they had lost all hopes about the restoration of 1973 Constitution and democracy.

CSO: 4600/432

PAKISTAN

REGIME BLAMED FOR FOSTERING SECTARIANISM

Karachi DAWN in English 24 Apr 85 p 8

[Text]

MUZAFFARGARH, April 23: Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, chief of the outlawed Pakistan Democratic Party, said on Monday that the present regime was responsible for sowing the seed of parochialism and sectarianism by making amendments to the Constitution.

Speaking to newsmen at his Khangarh residence, he said the mere slogan of Islam would not help to unite the nation. He said a group of opportunists had been praising dictatorship saying the ruler was doing his best to develop the country but, he said, it was only a lip-service. No development had occurred.

He said that not only the MRD but the whole nation was not prepared to accept the new assemblies as representative institutions. He reiterated that less than five per cent people cast their vote in the referendum and wondered how Gen Zia-ul-Haq called himself an elected President.

He said a referendum in a civilised country was held to resolve a controversy and not to elect a Head of State. He regretted that Gen Zia had concentrated all powers in his own person, and parliament was just a farce.

Appreciating the role of the MRD, he said sacrifices rendered by its workers deserved to be acknowledged by all and sundry.

The PDP chief prayed for the recovery of Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and said the leader of the outlawed PPP was needed by the people of Pakistan.

CSO: 4600/432

PAKISTAN

COMMENTARY DISCUSSES KARACHI TRAFFIC RIOTS

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 5

[Article by Ghazi Salahuddin]

[Text]

IF you have tears to shed — hold on. If you have had thoughts to think, you would know that incidents in Karachi in the past ten days do not as much call for lament as for understanding. Besides, we could see it coming. And if we know what has been happening to us, we should shudder to think what might happen if we lose our way.

As there was no newspaper last Thursday, I was not able to write about the ghastly accident on April 15 and the unrest it ignited. Since then, so much more has happened. We have Orangi and the ethnic diversion. There are the restrictions on how the incidents can be reported and commented upon.

In my last column of two weeks ago, I had touched upon the legacy of Martial Law, about how "we have been traumatised by Martial Law rule". And I had said that "the phase of our paralysis is about to be over".

No, I am not seeking any vindication of what I have been writing. The point is that we must look at the Karachi scene in the context of lessons we must learn from our experience of the past eight years. I have been writing for a long time about signs of disequilibrium in our society — and the repetition has annoyed some friends.

What is tragic is that those who are supposed to have known all ab-

out it were caught napping. I am not referring to the administrators or the members of the new assemblies. I mean leaders of the MRD.

Yes, the MRD was here and the leaders were arriving for the meeting at about the same time that it all began in Nazimabad. One could have known within hours that ordinary people, angered by the reality of their lives, were involved in a large protest. But the MRD leaders did not understand what was happening — not on the first day and not on the following day when everything was quite clear. Orangi was the result when people did not find leadership and direction.

Apparently, the leaders, like the people, have been taught by Martial Law to withdraw from politics of action. Hopefully, they will now understand what the new situation is. But in the third week of April in Karachi they lost the opportunity of plugging themselves into a very instructive urban crisis.

What will happen now? To answer this question, we must probe the causes and meaning of the Karachi incidents. And we could begin with the traffic and transport problems, which symbolise our clogged lives.

I have always taken traffic as a microcosm of our polity. The chaos mirrors our character and the manner in which we are manipulated and exploited by authority. Look at the number of private cars in the City. But there are not enough buses. There is no rapid transit system, without which no large city can survive. Transport portrays the

injustice of our elitist planning.

But the traffic accident was not the solitary provocation. There have been other traffic accidents and other Sir Syed girls have died in similar mishaps. One dimension was the police action and I do not know if the inquiry will reveal why the police had to be so brutal.

Finally, the discontent of the people and their willingness to resort to violence is to be seen as the decisive element. It is obvious that in the urban jungle, a large number of people lead helpless lives. They have suffered from apathy and alienation. Here was the moment of involvement.

The incidents also provide a clue to why people had voted in the February elections. Since the Martial Law had municipalised the issues, people had been insulted from national politics. Yet they had genuine grievances. They felt oppressed by corruption and red-tape. They were overawed by their civic problems. They needed a godfather to help them in their every encounter with bureaucracy. So they voted.

But now in Karachi they are learning another lesson. They must now realise that civic issues are

part of large, national issues. At this moment, they need to enlarge their vision and look at the total problem. That is why our national leaders have a role of play. Disturbances in Karachi provide glimpses of all our major concerns, from autonomy to ethnicity to the economic system.

For the moment, however, we should take note of the distortions that have been injected into the situation. When things become normal again, we should ponder the causes of the growing trend toward violence. Can we resolve our conflicts without resorting to violence?

Look at the flourishing deviant behaviour. Look at the manner in which people are making money. Look at the state of our institutions. Look at crime — and I am not referring to 'hathora' murders in Karachi. The system is in a process of disintegration. Look also at the potential for anarchy in the sub-continent. Our mobs are almost unique in the world.

I must explain that I am not being pessimistic. I still hope that our leaders will understand the meaning of what is happening. There is hope. At least some people in Karachi did try to break out of the prison of passivity.

CSO: 4600/434

PAKISTAN

MRD CRITICIZES METHOD OF FILING POLICE COMPLAINTS

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 8

[Text]

KARACHI, April 24: The MRD Central Action Committee has demanded the closure of three "open-ended" FIRs of 1981, relating to the alleged charges of hijacking, treason and conspiracy, registered at Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar.

These FIRs, it said, have been a "constant source of intimidation" to the political workers.

This was stated in a resolution on political prisoners adopted by the committee at its recent four-day session in Karachi. The resolution, along with two others, was released by the MRD Joint Secretary General, Mr Iqbal Haider, here on Wednesday.

Calling for immediate release of all the political detenus as well as students, lawyers, workers, etc. the committee demanded the retrial in civilian courts of all the cases tried by the military courts.

The resolution further urged that the property of any political prisoner should not be auctioned, that period spent by a convict in jail during the trial be counted as already completed part of the sentence and that medical treatment be provided to the political prisoners promptly.

It enumerated cases of alleged maltreatment and even torture of

political prisoners in various jails and cells, and said that this practice should be stopped forthwith. Besides, transfer of detenus from the jails of their province to those of other provinces should be discontinued, it added.

The committee adopted another resolution expressing great concern at the deteriorating health of Mr Mairaj Mohammad Khan, chief of the outlawed Qaumi Mahaz-i-Azadi and Mr Rasul Bakhsh Paleej, Secretary-General of the outlawed Awami Tehrik, and demanded their immediate release. It said that if adequate medical facilities were not available, Mr Mairaj and Mr Paleej should be allowed to go abroad for medical treatment.

A resolution on the freedom of the press criticised the practice of issuing 'press advices', use of advertisement quota and newsprint for "coercion" of the newspapers and pre-censorship of daily "Aman" and other newspapers and journals.

The committee also called for withdrawal of the Press and Publications Ordinance and restoration of the declaration of the banned newspapers.

CSO: 4600/434

PAKISTAN

HIJACKERS OF INDIAN PLANE FORMALLY CHARGED

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, April 24: The five Indians, who allegedly hijacked an Indian aircraft to Lahore on September 29, 1981, were formally charge-sheeted by the Special Court, Punjab, here on Wednesday.

All the accused pleaded not guilty.

Earlier, the court accepted an application moved by one of the defence counsels that the accused could not be tried under Section 149 PPC as it was not a scheduled offence and that the jurisdiction of the court was restricted to the offences mentioned in the schedule of Act XV of 1975.

The accused will now be tried under section 402 (b) and 34 PPC.

The Advocate-General, Punjab, contested this argument and contended that the petition was premature as the charges under which the accused had to be tried had not been framed.

Regarding the jurisdiction of the court, the A.G. said the point to be debated was not whether section 149 PPC fell in the said schedule or not. The actual point to be seen was whether section 149 made an offence.

The court turned down an application by the defence counsel seeking a short adjournment of the case to move the Lahore High Court to get the recording of the evidence of prosecution witnesses from India stayed. Defence counsel withdrew an application for moving the same subsequently.

The court recorded the statement of Mr. T.P. Sinha, who was the co-pilot of the Indian airliner hijacked to Lahore. Mr. Sinha narrated the whole story from his taking off to the commando action in

Lahore as a result of which the hijackers were over-powered and the passengers released.

He recognised Gojindar Singh and Jasbeer Singh in the court and said they were the ones who entered the cockpit and forced the pilot to divert the aircraft to Lahore.

Later, during cross-examination, Mr. Sinha said he was first told about his being required to appear in this case in Pakistan in the first week of this month. The summons were served on him in the hotel he is presently staying in and not in India, he added.

Mr. Sinha answered a number of questions about hijacking incidents in India since his appointment in Indian Airlines in 1965.

Asked as to what instructions the Indian government had issued to the pilots following so many hijackings to save the lives of passengers on board, Mr. Sinha said that the doors of cockpits should be kept locked and opened only when absolutely necessary. No commando or security staff is posted at the planes, he said in answer to another question.

He said the Indian Airlines had not provided the crew with any gadgets which could help prevent the hijacking incidents and save the lives of passengers.

"Should we assume that your government encourages the hijackings to compromise the position of the countries where the 'hijacked' planes land?" the defence counsel asked. "I don't know," came the answer.

He denied that the alleged hijackers were carrying any other weapon except the kirpans (short swords).

Answering another question, the co-pilot of the Indian airliner said the *kirpans* the hijackers were carrying were about nine inches long which, according to the defence counsel, the Sikhs were required by their religion to carry.

Mr. Sinha said he did not know whether those involved in hijacking incidents in India belonged to oppressed minorities.

The case continues.

CSO: 4600/433

PAKISTAN

POLICE OFFICIALS DISCUSS 'HAMMER' GANG KILLERS

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 1

[Text]

KARACHI, April 24: Measures to arrest the killer(s) of nine people hammered to death at the city's railway stations and tracks were discussed at a high-level meeting chaired by the IG, Sind. Police, Agha Saadat Ali Shah, on Wednesday.

The meeting discussed, among other things, various strategies and the motives of the ghastly murders and decided to intensify patrolling by police to round up suspects in this connection. It also reviewed the law and order situation in the city.

The meeting was attended, among others, by DIGs of Karachi Range, AIG, Lahore, of Railway Police, and all the three SSPs. It was also decided to form special teams to be headed by SPs to supervise the strategies adopted for the purpose.

Meanwhile, one more body of the victims of hammering, was identified as that of Noor Mohammad, son of Ferozuddin, resident of Akhora Khattak, NWFP. Chemical analyser's report is awaited to ascertain use of drugs before the killings.

CSO: 4600/433

PAKISTAN

JI LEADER URGES INTRODUCTION OF SHARIAT BILL IN PARLIAMENT

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 4

[Text]

LAHORE, April 24: Mian Tufail Mohammad, Amir of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami has urged the Government to lift Martial Law and let the army discharge its original duties so that people may feel the national boundaries secure.

Addressing a Press conference here today alongwith other office-bearers of Jamaat, he said, to implement the Islamic order in the country Government should introduce Shariat Bill in the coming session of the Parliament. In this connection, he said, his party was preparing the proposed bill. He said the elected representatives should be allowed to work freely and the 1973 Constitution, without amendments except those unanimously agreed upon, be restored.

He said the restoration of political parties, labour and student organisations and release of political leaders and workers is the need of the times to normalise the situation in the country. He said if these steps would be taken a cordial and pleasant atmosphere will prevail.

Mian Tufail Mohammad suggested that the members of assemblies should be granted permission to get themselves registered with any of the political parties so that they may work under a discipline. He said that the Jamaat had no differences with the MRD on principles but it differed only on policy matters.

He said the political parties should be given a chance to work to minimise bitterness in the country. He criticised those who were suggesting to the government to open a dialogue with the Karmal Government and said it will cut Pakistan off the UNO, OIC and NAM, and the

Soviet Union will treat President Zia like King Zaher Shah, Gen Daud, Taraki and Hafizullah Amin.

He suggested to the government to take serious note of the "Confederation" slogan, otherwise, it could create a situation akin to that of East Pakistan. He said that he had not resigned from the Amirship of the Jamaat nor had given any hint in this connection.

Mian Tufail Muhammad appealed to the Presidents of Iran and Iraq to put an end to the futile and fratricidal war and spare the Muslim Ummah of useless bloodshed of Muslims by Muslims.

He has sent telegrams to both the Presidents and said that the prolonged war has pushed the most vital issues of the Muslim World like liberation of Palestine and Afghanistan, in the background. He said that this war was only delighting our enemies.

Working committee

Mian Tufail Muhammad announced names of the members constituting the Central Working Committee of the party.

They are: Prof. Ghafoor Ahmad, Ch. Rehmat Elahi, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad, Maulana Jan Muhammad Abbasi, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Maulana Fateh Muhammad, Maulana Ghulam Haqqani, Maulana Abdul Hameed Mengal, Mahmood Azam Farooqi, Mian Muhammad Shaukat, Asadullah Bhutto, Maulana Salamatullah, Maulana Gohar Rehman, Dr. Muhammad Yaqub, Ch. Ghulam Jilani, Syed Asad Gilani, Ch. Abdul Rehman, Ch. Lal Din Saleem, Ch. Muhammad Ashraf Bajwa and Khurshid Ahmad Kanjo.—PPI

PAKISTAN

ECONOMIST CRITICIZES POLICIES, ATTACKS MINISTER

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 4

[Text]

LAHORE, April 24: Mr Omer Asghar Khan, an economist and son of former Air Chief Asghar Khan, has declined the invitation by the Finance Minister to attend a meeting in connection with budgetary proposals and maintained that the way Dr Mahbubul Haq had damaged the economy of Pakistan, he should have resigned.

In a letter to the Joint Economic Adviser, he stated that after the Sixth Plan had been scrapped, the fate of the proposed three-year rolling plan too seemed to be similar in the wake of the rapidly deteriorating economic conditions.

As for the present state of economy, Mr Khan stated the total budgetary deficit this year was feared to be Rs. 13 billion, including fall in the revenue to the order of Rs. 7 billion.

According to him, the country's economy in 1985 would find itself in a more serious crisis in the wake of prevailing political, social and economic conditions, semi-feudal milieu, control of big business and comprador elements, dependence on foreign aid and the interference by the World Bank and the IMF in formulation of our economic policies.

According to him, with a major chunk of about 75 per cent of the government revenue expected to be allotted for defence and debt servicing, it would leave almost nothing for the welfare programmes.

"In such a situation I do not think there is much use in wasting time over discussing budgetary proposals with the Finance Minister", he concluded.

CSO: 4600/433

PAKISTAN

RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS URGED

Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 4

[Text]

LAHORE, April 24: Eminent jurists, politicians and journalists have demanded the release of all political detenus, particularly Mr. Rasool Bukhsh Paleejjo, Mr. Mairaj Mohammad Khan, Maulana Fzlur Rehman and Maulana Mohammad Shah Amroti.

In a joint statement, they expressed concern over the deteriorating condition of Mr. Paleejjo who is under detention for about six years without trial.

They said that Mr. Paleejjo was a prominent political leader and an outstanding Sindhi intellectual and lawyer and his release has been demanded by numerous organisations at home and abroad. He was recently shifted to hospital because of failing health. Prolonged detention without trial amounted to a denial of fundamental human rights, the statement said.

Among the signatories are Malik Mohammad Qasim, Malik Saeed Hasan, Mr. Bashir Zafar, Sardar Shaukat Ali, Mr. Abdul Rashid

Qureshi, Chaudhry Asghar Khadim, Mr. Nawaz Gondal, Mr. Jehangir Ashraf Vance, Mr. Nazir Naji, Mr. Anwar Ali, and Mr. Afzaal Malhi.

In a separate statement Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan, a leader of the outlawed Tehrik-i-Istaqlal has demanding the release of Maulana Mohammad Shah Amroti, who is not keeping good health in jail.

Meanwhile, the Political Prisoners Release and Relief Committee had urged the release of Mr. Iftikhar Shahid and Mr. Islam Khan, leaders of the outlawed Qaumi Mahazi-i-Azadi, Mr. Munawwar Zahidi of the Pakistan Socialist Party and Mr. Bashir Ahmad.

They were arrested on February 5 last and are facing a trial by a military court on charges of printing a pamphlet against the elections.

In a statement, the secretary-general of the committee, has urged that their trial be referred to a civil court and they be enlarged on bail.

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PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

JI'S CONCERN OVER ECONOMY--LAHORE, April 20--The defunct Jamaat-i-Islami has expressed grave concern over the prevailing economic crisis in the country and demanded emergency measures to face the situation. In a resolution adopted at a meeting presided over by its chief, Mian Tufail Muhammad, here today, the Jamaat has suggested convening of National and Provincial Assemblies to take the elected representatives into confidence. A national consensus should be evolved after consultation with people from all walks of life and economic reform should be undertaken immediately. The Jamaat said the Sixth Plan had completely failed and that new planning should be made based on realism. The Jamaat expressed its doubt that interest-free banking would be introduced from July this year as was proposed by the Government. It described as inadequate the work towards Islamic economic reformation and said it appeared as if the objective of establishment of Islamic economic justice was being overlooked. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 21 Apr 85 p 10]

MINISTER ON PARTIES' REVIVAL--KARACHI, April 20--The re-emergence of political parties in Pakistan will take place but is not likely in the near future, Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister, Mr. Hamid Nasir Chattha, said here on Saturday night. Talking to newsmen at Karachi Airport on his arrival here from Lahore on a one-day visit, he said the question of permitting political parties to function once again was in all probability a matter that would eventually come up for consideration in the National Assembly. Asked about what the new government would do to encourage press freedom in keeping with the emergence of democratic institutions, he said personally speaking: "I believe in complete press freedom!" As far as the Press and Publication Ordinance was concerned, he said he had not studied it fully as yet. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 21 Apr 85 p 10]

UNIVERSITY TEACHER'S RELEASE URGED--KARACHI, April 24--Seven prominent political leaders here on Wednesday demanded immediate release of Dr Hasan Zafar Arif, former president of Karachi University Teachers' Association (KUTS), who has been detained in Karachi Central Prison since October, 1984. In a press release they said that the release of Dr Hasan Zafar Arif has been urged by leading philosophical associations, who have written to the government confirming Dr Zafar Arif's repute as an intellectual and a philosopher. The leaders further expressed concern at the government's education policies, which had led to the arrest of teachers, rustication of students and frequent closure of higher academic institutions. Signatories to the statement are

Sardar Sherbaz Mazari, Khwaja Khairuddin, Mahmoodul Haq Usmani, Fatehyab Ali Khan, Maulana Ehramul Haq Thanvi, Altaf Azad and Zainul Abedin. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 6]

PESSIMISM OVER NEW PARLIAMENT--RAWALPINDI, April 24--Mr S. M. Zafar, the Secretary-General of outlawed Pakistan Muslim League, has said the new leadership emerged after the recent non-party elections in the country may not complete the period of five years for which they were elected. Some recent symptoms, he said, convinced him that time will not allow the new parliament to continue its function up to the specific period. Mr Zafar was speaking on Wednesday evening at "Meet the Press" at Rawalpindi Press Club organised by RJP Nawaz Raza group. He feared the possibility of imposition of fourth Martial Law in the country, if the present Martial Law was lifted without lifting the curbs from political parties. Political parties, he said, were the only modern and effective instrument through which slogans of provincialism and separatism could be intelligently handled. Such slogans, Mr Zafar said, are being chanted only because people in small provinces were not being hearded properly. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 85 p 8]

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END